

KEEP STRONG

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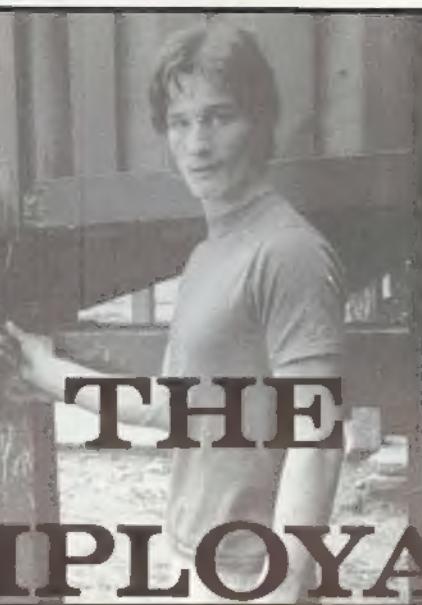
THE UNEMPLOYABLES



“WALL STREET WEST”
San Francisco

In This Issue:

1



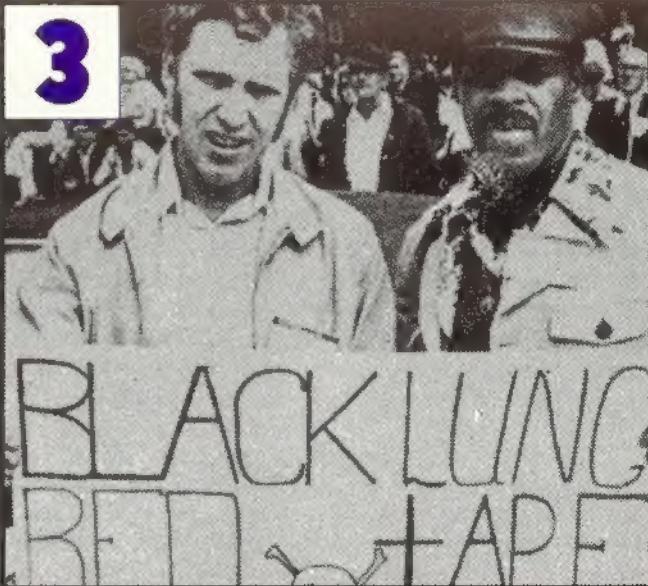
THE

UNEMPLOYABLES

2



3



4



5



COLUMNS

Editorial: Frustration And The Big Lie	Page 2	Education	Page 20
On The Street	Page 4	Health News: The Runaround Was Worse Than The Bite	Page 22
Welfare Rights: "They're Trying To Wear Me Down"	Page 4	Community Programs: Community Dinner A Huge Success	Page 23
Unemployment: "A Certain Segment Of People That Don't Exist"	Page 10	Occupational Health: Lead Poisoning Be- Coming A Threat To Factory Workers	Page 25
Tenants' Rights: Stockton's Pershing Manor: "Profit From Hardship"	Page 16	Fighting City Hall: Southside Millw.	
Legal Rights: Juvenile Justice "Cruel And Unusual Punishment"	Page 16	Community Gears Up For Residency	
Police Watch: Police Victim Warned: Don't Push Too Hard"	Page 17	Council Election	Page 27
Criminal Justice: Prison Guard Riot Officially Sanctioned	Page 19	National Perspective: Zenith Lays Off 5600 Workers	Page 51
		Intercommunal Perspective: Huey P. Newton Reports On His Experiences In Cuba	Page 54

FEATURES

Chicago Ex-Miners Join Washington Lobby For New Black Lung Law	Page 30
Uptown Residents Present Clinic Proposal	Page 32
Chicago Coalition To Stop Carter's Welfare Proposal Launches Campaign	Page 35
Fighting The Masterplan Part II	Page 38
The San Francisco Masterplan: "Wall Street West"	Page 42
The Bakke Case	Page 46
Native American Delegation Goes To Geneva	Page 48

In This Issue

1. In this issue KEEP STRONG exposes a Chicago masterplan to declare thousands from the oppressed community unemployable. See page 38.
2. Huey P. Newton reports on his recent experience in Cuba and remarks on the Cuban government's concern for full employment. See page 54.
3. Self-sacrifice and collective determination marks intensive lobbying for new black lung law. See page 30.
4. Over 200 Uptown residents present clinic proposal to the Cook County Health and Hospitals Governing Commission. See page 32.
5. Resistance to Carter's Welfare Plan grows as a Coalition forms in Chicago. See Page 35.

FRUSTRATION AND THE BIG LIE

"Tell a lie big enough, and the masses will believe it."—Adolph Hitler.

Carter's campaign and the first year of his term of office brought to this country the "big promise." Most of all we were promised there would be jobs where there was now unemployment. Jobs, jobs and more jobs. After four years of Nixon it seemed that poor and working people, Black, Latino and White, had a friend to look out for their interest. He would put money to meet the needs of the city, and most of all, there would be jobs. For those forced to stay on welfare, even that system would improve and become less degrading.

Pushed on by the same mysterious but powerful big business interests as Carter, politicians at the local level began partaking of "the big promise." In democratic party controlled big cities especially, we heard: "As soon as Carter is elected, the money will flow into the cities."

By now it should be evident that the big promise was in fact the big lie. Conditions are worse now than before, unemployment is rising and only a few federal dollars are trickling down to the desperate cities. What monies do come to the city are applied by the masterplanners, as when Nixon was president, to middle and upper-income developments, leaving the poor literally out in the cold. The "big promise" became known as the "big lie" and was replaced in the hearts of the people by the "big frustration."

Basic services, like health care and demands for jobs, were met with bureaucratic stalls while the rich and powerful pursued their own interests in glamorous projects like Chicago's Dearborn Park. Carter's welfare program, the cruelest joke of all, turned the last hope into bitter, bitter anger. Having left us in desperation in the cities, professors and journalists called us a new name: the "underclass," and warned that we must be dispersed before we exploded, but it was inevitable that the big lie would end quickly in the big frustration.

It is also inevitable that the perpetrators of the big lie would make a last ditch attempt to save the lie. Today they are attempting, and succeeding in many cases, to turn frustration to blame. Workers without papers, driven from Mexico by the profit hungry exploitation of U.S. corporations, are

blamed for unemployment. And now comes along the campaign to stop "reverse racism." Here the poor White is being used as we have been used so many times. A few token jobs given to Black people are thrown up in the face of those of us who are unemployed and desperate for work. Then someone tells us that this is "reverse racism," that we are being discriminated against, now, because we are White.

There is no such thing as reverse racism. There is a Black reaction to White racism that causes occasionally some Black people to lash out blindly at some poor Whites. But the struggle of Black people, among whom unemployment is rising the quickest, to get some long promised jobs is not racism. In fact it is very similar to that same struggle by poor Whites, who need to join together with it.

The Big Promises, the Big Blame, the Big Lie. If we do not let the Big Frustration turn us into fools, fighting at each others throats, there is only one thing left that can happen: the Big Change.□

In Memoriam

Another young life has been cut short in Uptown. Doug Robinson—just 18 years old—drowned in Lake Michigan's Montrose Harbor as he swam with Chet Branham on August 27, 1977.

ON THE STREET

"DO YOU THINK DRUGS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR COMMUNITIES?"



Betty Goodman
N. Magnolia

"You mean the drugs that the children are taking? It affects their minds and everything. It just messes them all up, that's all. I think it contributes to the crime and everything else that's going on in the neighborhood."

Jameal A. Malik E. L.
S. Muskegan

"I see definitely that drugs distributed by doctors and heroin is causing destruction to the community because of the fact that when someone gets addicted to drugs it becomes something to them that they cannot control and handle themselves. They are being controlled by outside influences and this is one of the reasons I say we should get rid of drugs in the community."



Robert Covelli
N. Oriole

"Yes, it is helping to destroy the community. It is deluding everybody's perspective of the way they look at reality. It is goofing up their minds. They don't see the real world, they see the world they want to see. They are all wasted. They don't set any goals and go after it, they just sit there and get high and dig on things. I went through that trip for three years. I know how it is."

Mary Hornbuckle
W. Ainslie

"Yes, I think drugs are destroying the community for the simple reason that drugs destroy your mind and when you can't think straight you can't live straight. If your mind has a veil over it from the drugs how can you think about anything?"



Lawrence Zornes Jr.
N. Magnolia

"One thing you see are these main dealers. You know—these high industrial people that deal with it and they pass it on down to us poor people. Then that's why I say I figure it's used to push us out of the city."

Sam Assmar
W. Grace



"They are doing it on purpose to get rid of the people so they can get new people in Uptown because Uptown is supposed to start rebuilding again. They want everybody out to bring suburb people in. But where are people going to go? They don't build houses for them, and one way to get rid of them is drugs."



John Williams
W. Sunnyside

"Everything I see up here is drug related or police related. If the drugs don't have a hand in it the police or the landlords do. Constantly, day after day, it's the same thing. That's about all I can say."

Donald Thomas
S. Shields



"Like where I live not too many people mess around with drugs. I am trying to go to school and I'm trying to get an education but I think it does destroy the community like people get to a point they can't do nothing for themselves, they just feel down."



Norma Lang
N. Magnolia

"Yes. I figure the doctors are giving people the medicine they don't need and they sell it on the streets. The doctors should quit. They should have to give thorough check-ups before they can get the medicine. Someone could take an overdose and die from it."

Bobbie Justice
N. Magnolia



"Oh definitely, because you can see the difference in the neighborhood. The whole neighborhood is run down in the last few years and I have lived here all my life. I think it's tearing down the people too. Making them worse off than they are already."



Linda Coleman
W. Buena

"Yes, I do, because it takes food out of the mouths of children to buy drugs and everything. The father or the mother lets the kids go out to buy these drugs."

WELFARE RIGHTS

"They're Trying To Wear Me Down"

(Stockton, Calif.) The bureaucracy plagued social security administration is the object here of a one family campaign to force the agency to respond quickly and sufficiently to the real needs of citizens. Norman Cook was struck by an automobile traveling 80 mph when he was 12 years old. He received a series of compound fractures through his neck, back and legs, and was confined to a wheel chair for the next four years. In order to hold his bones together, metal screws were inserted into three areas of his right leg.

For the next several years he struggled to finish school and begin to earn a living for his young family. He left Stockton in 1969 and traveled to Kansas and later Tulsa, Oklahoma to find better paying work and eventually worked as a technician in a sound studio in Tulsa. The frequency and severity of pain throughout his legs and back and the continued headache he was having at that time caused him to seek a medical opinion. He was informed that a screw in his leg was broken and contributed to growing arthritis. From that point until now his condition has steadily deteriorated.

Norman is now confined to a wheel chair for the rest of his life. Over 30 minutes in the wheel chair causes so much pain that he must get out of the chair and lay down. The concentration of metal in his body has changed his blood type from O pos. to O neg. due to an over amount of potassium nitrate, making him allergic to all vegetables. He is dependent on a large daily intake of valium and seconals to depress the pain in his legs, neck and head, and requires the constant assistance of Mrs. Cook to meet his basic needs.

Norman Cook first applied for Supplemental Security Income in October of 1974 and was denied in the early part of 1975. He was informed that he did not meet the medical eligibility requirements of the SSI law. By 1976, he had been out of work for over a year, his condition was growing worse and he began to feel desparate, so he reapplied for SSI. Once again he was denied because the government said that he was able to work. This time the Cook family decided they would not drop the issue. They requested a reconsideration of the claim. When the denial was upheld they requested a hearing on the claim.

The Cooks heard nothing for the next 6 months. In



Norman Cook: "It is really incredible that I've been laying here for over a year in agony and they keep telling me to go to work. They are trying to wear me down, but I'm not going to stop fighting them."

August of 1977, Mr. Cook was informed that September 7 had been set as the date for the hearing on his claim. The Social Security Administration brought a 'Vocational-Technical expert' to the hearing to testify that in his non-medical opinion, Mr. Cook was able to work. The witness, however, went on to testify that Norman's 'use' of drugs for pain relief made him unfit for even assembly line employment.

The Cook family is now waiting on the decision from that hearing, but even now the Cooks feel they have learned an important lesson, "There is no doubt in my mind that my body has deteriorated 200% in the last year. I've got McFall (Congressman), Garamendi (State Senator), Cardwell (Comm. of Social Security) on my side. I even got a note from Jimmy Carter, I wrote a book to him. But where does that get me. I still don't have a dime. They refuse to listen to me. I don't know what I have to do to get some money from them. It is really incredible that I've been laying here for over a year in agony and they keep telling me to go to work. They are trying to wear me down, but I'm not going to stop fighting them." □

"Your Grant Is Cut: These Are The New Rules..."

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) When Mrs. Charlotte Martin recently went to the local welfare office to find out why her welfare payments were cut from \$125 to \$22 per month, she was told, "these are the new rules." She was told that all federal money coming into a household would be used against any city welfare in calculating the total family budget.

Mrs. Martin lives with her 19 year old daughter, Phyllis, in Greenpoint. Three years ago, Mrs. Martin's husband died, at which time Mrs. Martin started receiving social security payments to support Phyllis. A year later, when Phyllis turned 18, the benefits were transferred directly to her. Mrs. Martin turned to welfare for support because she was unable to find employment, due to an illness. At that time, their monthly expenses for rent, utilities and food were about \$250.00. This is known as the family budget. Mrs. Martin got \$125.00 per month from welfare and she paid half of the expenses. Phyllis got \$204 a month from social security and \$125 of this went into her half of the family budget. This left Phyllis, who is a student at a local college, about \$79

a month for clothes, school supplies, and other necessary expenses.

Two months ago, in July, 1977, Phyllis was sent a letter stating that her benefits were going from \$204 a month to \$230 per month. She was also told that her entire check would have to go towards the \$250 family budget. In turn, Mrs. Martin's welfare check was cut to \$22 a month, meaning that Phyllis must now support her mother.

Mrs. Martin has a lot of questions about this situation. "What I'd like to know is who changed the rules, and why didn't they warn the people about these changes that were taking place? They say Carter has a plan to help people in the cities—if that's the help he's giving...he's using funds that are already appropriated. It's taking away from poor people. He may be the president, but he's taking a stick and beating us."

With this new family budget, with Phyllis supporting herself and her mother, she is left with about 50 cents a month to spend. Phyllis is also angry about this "new plan." "Carter's just making it worse for the poor people by promoting prejudice by making minorities feel worse about each other. He hasn't faced the reality that there are poor White people in this country who have a lot in common with minority groups."



Mrs. Martin and her daughter Phyllis: "Why does Phyllis have to leave home? They're putting it into her head that she should quit school and leave home and then I would get more money. Now I have to live with no kids after all these years."

Phyllis and Mrs. Martin are furious with the fact that Carter's "new rules" have the effect of dispersing families, putting a child in the position of choosing to live with his or her family or going out on their own before they want to or are ready to do so. "Why does Phyllis have to leave home? They're putting it into her head that she should quit school and leave home and then I would get more money. Now I have to live with no kids after all these years."

Mrs. Martin and Phyllis, along with many other families in Greenpoint are determined to investigate these "new rules" and to hold their families together despite the attacks by the so called plans to "help poor people in the cities." □

"What Was I Supposed To Do For Food?"

(Chicago, Ill.) When Arena Schaeffer's public aid check came in the last part of August, she had recently returned home from the hospital with her new-born baby.

As soon as she was up to it, Arena took her



Arena Schaeffer: "I came here to get some emergency food stamps, not to talk to a family support counselor! They still didn't give me any food stamps."

remaining \$130 in food stamps and was going to a large supermarket, where food is less expensive, to try to get the most for her money. It was pouring rain, so she took her three week old infant to her sister's house, and proceeded to the store. On the way there, she realized that she had left her purse in the cab. Repeated calls to the cab company turned up nothing. Public aid is the only source income that Arena has for herself and her seven children, and she wasn't expecting another check until the end of September.

She had been advised to file a police report, because welfare always tells you to when something is lost or stolen. She did that, and the same day, a Friday, called welfare and asked for emergency food stamps. They wanted to know why she didn't have any money left when she had just gotten a check at the end of August. She explained that when the check came she had just gotten out of the hospital and didn't have the energy to go shopping. Instead she had to send her oldest daughter to the corner store which is more expensive, for necessities and that used up a lot of money and food stamps.

After this explanation, the welfare worker said that she would have to bring in receipts to account for every penny of the check she had received. They said it would take 24 hours to process a police report, and that they would have to get a report from the cab company also. These things could not be done that day, and since Monday was Labor Day, she would have to wait until the following Tuesday. Arena explained, "They said nothing could be done over the weekend. What was I supposed to do for food?

"When I did go down there, they kept me waiting, then my caseworker came out and asked me the same questions she had asked me on the phone. I told her I couldn't wait around too long because I had to pick up two of my kids from school at 11:30. Then she said I would have to see the family support counselor before I left. I went in there and they asked me all kinds of questions about the father of my kids. I said 'I came here to get some emergency food stamps, not to talk to a family support counselor.' They still didn't give me any food stamps." □

Public Aid Steps Up Fraud Investigations

(Chicago, Ill.) According to news reports, the Illinois Department of Public Aid has stepped up its campaign to identify welfare fraud. Cross checking



Dreama Ernle: The computer said she was working at a printing company and cut her off.

names and social security numbers of people on its rolls against payrolls in government and private industry as well as welfare lists from other states, many names reportedly have appeared more than once. The effects of this campaign, however, have not been reported.

Dreama Ernle came home from the hospital recently to find a letter from public aid. The letter said something about her working and something about making \$4,000 dollars. "I thought welfare sometimes finds people jobs, and I thought they wanted me to go to work at this place," Dreama explained.

She called welfare and they said she had been cut off because they had information from their computer that she was working at the W.F. Whitehall Printing Company. Dreama went to the public aid office and found out that someone using her social security number did in fact work there. No one at public aid had called the printing company to double check on the information they got from the computer, but instead immediately cut Dreama off. Insisting on further investigation, it was found that this was a man and that somehow he had the same

social security number she did.

Finally, public aid was forced to admit their mistake. But, rather than put her back on aid, they told her she would have to reapply. This didn't help very much. It would take at least a month and probably longer before she would get a check, if she had to start her case all over again. It was not until after Dreama threatened legal action that her case was reinstated.

In a similar situation, Margie Bailey received a cut off letter from welfare which claimed that she was cashing aid checks both here and in Ohio. Again, a computer print out provided this information. They again did not concern themselves with what her side of the story might be or the fact that cutting her off would leave her with no income at all.



Margie Bailey: Calling it "police work" the public aid department refused to investigate who was cashing Margie's checks in Ohio while they cut her off and charged her with fraud.

The fact is that Margie was on aid in Ohio until April of this year, at which time she left Ohio, and came to Chicago. She applied for aid here, and has been here ever since. Her caseworker has refused to accept proof that she never returned to Ohio and claiming that any further investigation in Ohio is "police work," has refused to allow that someone else could be receiving and cashing her checks. Margie has appealed the decision to cut-off her case, and is waiting for a decision on the appeal, which may take as long as two months. □

"A Certain Segment Of People That Don't Exist"

(Chicago, Ill.) Irene Hutchison has spent a good part of her life working to support her family while organizing and working with her neighbors here in Uptown to maintain a community where people can have decent housing and the necessary means of survival.

In March of this year, Irene was forced to turn to welfare because she didn't have a job and not enough time had passed since she lost her job for her to collect unemployment benefits. She applied for General Assistance on March 15, 1977. They sent her to the unemployment office on Kedzie to get proof that she was not eligible, which she did. A couple of months later, her son, who had been away, came back to live with her. She asked to have her case changed over to ADC (Aid to Dependent Children) and they told her she would have to be cut off and reapply. She did this and they again sent her to the unemployment office. By this time, enough time had passed since she last worked and they said she was eligible. She filled out an application.

Back at the public aid office, Irene was told she was no longer eligible for ADC, and would have to reapply again to get food stamps and a medical card. They cancelled out her ADC application and she had to file two separate applications for food stamps and a medical card.

Shortly after that, Unemployment sent her a letter saying she had been approved for benefits and would be getting \$55 a week starting July 26. No check came the first week. The second week she did get her check and after talking to a worker at Kedzie Ave., believed that the check for the first week would soon be on its way.

At that time, Irene was planning to move and sent in a change of address, the number of the house being 1328. She then received a notice saying they had received the change of address, and the next check would be mailed to "132.". "I called and told them they had the wrong address. The check had already been sent, but I knew there was no such address so it would be returned to them. They said to come in and sign a tracer which I did, and they assured me they would send it to the correct address as soon as they got it back. I called about that check

every week and nobody knew anything about it. Finally I called the downtown office and the man there said they had just received the tracer from Kedzie and that the check had been there for 6 weeks."

In the mean time, Irene had to run back and forth to the unemployment office and continue to call about checks not coming. Every other week the check didn't come. She was approved 10 weeks ago, and has received 3 checks, covering a total of 5 weeks. "Every time a check doesn't come, I have to go back to the office because with each check, they send you a form to fill out and mail back, which is how you get your next check. So every time you miss a check you automatically miss the next one also if you don't go down and fill out the form in person. The times when I go down there and sign, I always get the next check. The times when I mail it back, I never get the next check.

"When you go to the office and try to explain your situation they just put you off. They refuse to listen to everything you want to say. They cut you off at a certain point. The whole system is run by computer and they are supposed to punch out the information on your case. Most of them don't even do that. I had one of them pretend she did it. She went over to the computer and did nothing. Then she came back and



Irene Hutchinson: "They are giving us a message... in banner headlines. For them, there is a certain segment of people that just don't exist."

told me some information off the top of her head, which turned out to be totally false. I've seen piles of forms that have been filled out, just sitting there. They do nothing with them except throw them in the garbage. A lot of people just give up the fight. They go back to work, or whatever, and don't ever get their benefits."

As if she was not having enough problems with unemployment, welfare decided to get in on the act again. After approving her food stamps for one month, they sent her a letter saying that her food stamp status had changed, and that she had to reapply. In addition, they sent her a letter saying she owed them \$22.33 for the medical card and that she would have to pay this amount every month if she wanted to keep getting the medical card.

Irene went in to public aid again and talked to the same man as before. He said she would have to cooperate in getting support from her ex-husband if she wanted to get food stamps. When she asked what she would have to do, he said to write her ex-husband a letter asking for support, make a copy of it and bring it in to the food stamp worker. She explained that she has no contact with him and hasn't for several years.

"It's a very emotionally painful situation, and this man got me very upset. It's his job to browbeat people. I had to walk out. That is cruel and unusual punishment."

Irene summed up the reason for all the many different problems created by both welfare and unemployment. "They are giving us a message. I've gotten their message before but this time it's in banner headlines. It's the same reason they won't give us the clinic we need so badly. For them, there is a certain segment of people that just don't exist." □

TENANTS' RIGHTS

Stockton's Pershing Manor: "Profit From Hardship"

(Stockton, Calif.) Sitting between a garbage collection company, a used equipment company and dry barren land crossed by tracks, Pershing Manor sounds like a home for retired bankers.

Not a blade of grass grows around the six buildings that house the 72 units of privately owned "low-income housing" of Pershing Manor. Although the buildings, built before the war, haven't been painted or redecorated in years, the one and two bedroom apartments are fully occupied.

"I'm here because there's nowhere else I can afford or get, not because I want to be," explains one father. Most of the tenants agree on this. A mother said, "it's almost impossible to find a place with four kids. It's easier here. Jerry (the owner) doesn't make you fill out a lot of forms. He just wants your money."

Whether White, Mexican or Black, many of the families that live at Pershing Manor are here for the San Joaquin Valley harvest season of walnuts, tomatoes and other foods to work in the nearby fields and canneries that are now in full swing. They come from Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Southern California and Mexico following harvest seasons and need a place to stay for a few months. Some families have lived there for years trying to get something more permanent in Stockton. Some families lived here years ago, got out but have since returned because of rising unemployment and housing costs.

"The landlord knows people have to live here so he takes advantage of you. He charges for rent what he



Not a blade of grass grows around the six buildings that house the 72 units of privately owned "low-income housing" of Pershing Manor. The children have no place to play.



Building at Pershing Manor: Tenant after tenant points to cracked, rotted or no ceilings in their kitchens and bathrooms.

thinks he can get from you. Most people pay around \$100 for a one bedroom and \$115 for a two bedroom. But he'll get what he can out of you. He charged one Mexican family \$200 a month for three months. They didn't have any choice," revealed one tenant.

Another tenant stated, "When I moved in my refrigerator wasn't working. It didn't have a handle on the door, so everything would spoil unless you ate it real fast. So I asked him for another refrigerator. You know what he did? He brings me another refrigerator and tells me he has to charge me an extra \$5 a month for it. The one he brought doesn't work right either. It freezes everything now. But he still charges me an extra \$5 a month."

That story is not uncommon. Others had the extra \$5 a month on their rents for refrigerators with no shelves and no temperature gauge. Small metal showers (there are no bathtubs) leak into the apartments downstairs or flood the floors. Tenant after tenant points to cracked, rotted or no ceilings in their kitchens and bathrooms. Rats and roaches are included in the list of complaints.

The landlord has got one guy working for him to make repairs. There's so much though it takes forever to get something done. And the landlord owns other buildings that he has this guy running off

to. A lot of stuff just never gets fixed," the tenants explained.

Pershing Manor is owned by Jerry Whitney who got the buildings from his father. His father used to work for the California State Health Dept. where, as word has it, any complaints of the health and living conditions at Pershing seemed to get lost.

"Jerry ain't such a bad guy," said a resident. "Of course not," countered another, "He's making at least \$7,500 a month off us. Look at his place. He's got carpeting, nice wall paper and furniture. He's got a washing machine in there. He doesn't let any other tenants have a washing machine because he has to pay the water bill, but he's got one."

"That's another thing," another tenant spoke up, "These are supposed to be furnished apartments, but all he has in here is junk. And he won't let you get your own furniture because he says he doesn't have any place to store his furniture."

A little boy pointed over to a wooden fence, "There's a swimming pool in there but it's got all his junk in it. He won't let any of us go swimming no more."

Many tenants are mad about the mail. Mr. Whitney has the mail delivered to him every day and



The swimming pool: What used to be recreation for the tenants is now off limits, and piled with the landlord's junk.

he doesn't let anybody have it until 2 p.m. On the days that the checks come for the people on welfare, he does let them get their checks at 9 a.m. "He wants his money," said one tenant with a snicker.

"It's hard to do anything about it," the tenants go on, "because he knows there's nothing else for us. Some people stop paying rent until he gets around to fixing something. But he usually just throws them out. Some other family will move in." (At this time KEEP STRONG is not mentioning the names of any tenants in order to protect them from possible harassment, intimidation or eviction.

Located in one of the wealthiest farming regions of the world, Pershing Manor is the home of families who work in harvests and canneries but do not share the wealth of the area. The profits from the rich yields have been invested in banks and real estate. Stockton's million dollar community development program has not eased the housing shortage which allows Jerry Whitney to profit from hardship. □

County Judge Eugene Ward alone orders an average of 60 families a day to move out of their apartments. The courts, meanwhile, have streamlined the legal process for handling the heavy load of evictions and have cut out most of the tenant's rights in order to save time.

A TRIAL EVERY MINUTE

The routine eviction process (called a forcible detainer suit) gives the tenant just about 60 seconds time in front of the judge. In the average case, it takes that one minute for the judge to question everyone, reach his verdict and announce his order. The hearing consists of one main question: "Do you owe any rent?" Any "yes" answer gets a quick response from the judge—the landlord has won his case. No matter how many photographs of cracked walls or leaking roofs, the tenant has finished presenting his side of the story before he even knows it. The judge moves on to the next case and the tenant is left with an average of fifteen days to find a new place.

The problem of evictions is almost solely a problem for the poor and oppressed communities in the city. They are forced into substandard housing rented at inflated prices. Then when tenants withhold their rent as the only weapon to get minimum repairs, the city courts help move them out. Since the poor are the vast majority of defendants in these cases, the courts have taken special steps to make it nearly

Chicago Evictions Average 60 A Day

(Chicago, Ill.) An estimated 18,000 families are ordered out of their homes each year by Chicago court judges presiding over evictions in the city.



George Atkins, tenant at 4513 N. Magnolia: "The only reason the building is still standing is because the tenants took control."

impossible for them to get a fair hearing.

In Illinois, a tenant is entitled by law to a jury trial in a forcible detainer (eviction) suit. Yet, an insignificant number of cases ever go to jury trial. Last month, in a conversation with investigators from the Uptown Tenants Survival Union, the chief corporation counsel for the Department of Buildings said he thought "the entire (court) system would break down if tenants ever started asking for jury trials." The investigators found that there are almost no provisions to guarantee tenants their right to trials. "If they did," one investigator reported, "the courtrooms at the Daley Center would be filled with nothing else."

UPTOWN TENANTS DEMAND JURY TRIALS

Recently, tenants at 4513 North Magnolia St. did demand jury trials. The Magnolia building tenants have been involved in a 10 month struggle over their right to decent housing. Karl Hinz, the owner of the building, filed eviction actions against nearly all the tenants in early September. The tenants' club has been collecting rents since February and using the money to make essential repairs.

According to George Atkins, one of the tenants at 4513 N. Magnolia, "The only reason the building is still standing is because the tenants took control back

in February. Hinz has already tried to evict us once. And he's tried to move us out a hundred other ways. This new court fight is just one more step in the struggle to save the building for people in the community." The tenants had anticipated the new eviction actions a month before they were started. When suits were finally filed, they were able to prepare strong cases in their own defense.

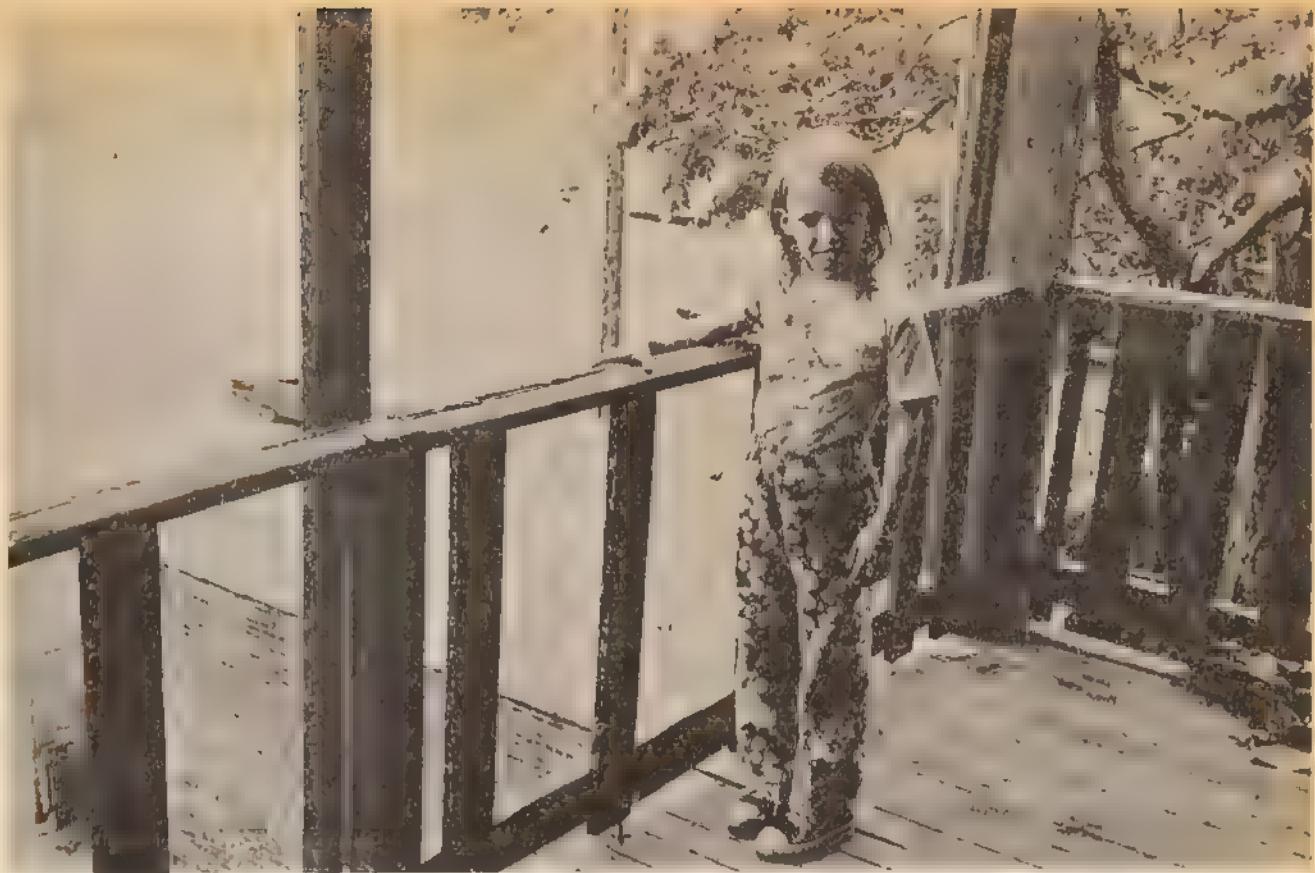
The demand for juries was met with immediate reaction from the city courts. According to a legal worker for UTSU, "The tenants filed routine petitions for the County Clerk to pay the costs of the jury trial. But when presented with the petitions, Judge Charles P. Horan refused to sign them after he learned they were for tenants." Judge Charles Horan presides over the city district courts. "Horan asked one attorney in the case if she could prove that people on public aid or social security were poor. He said he didn't think she could," the legal worker reported.

"I later talked with Judge Poynton about one of the jury requests," she continued. "Poynton said we didn't have any choice but to rely on the discretion of the judges. When we hinted that they tenants would file suit in federal court to force the city to provide jury trials, the judge avoided any comment." The next day, Judge Horan authorized the signing of the petitions.

The tenants appeared in front of Judge Ward on



A tenant at 4513 N. Magnolia examines dilapidated conditions of the building.



Linda Wynn's daughter: As the owners allow the buildings to become health and safety hazards, the tenants withhold their only weapon to get repairs made—their rent. However, the courts make it nearly impossible to get a fair hearing.

September 14. The room was so overcrowded that people were standing alongside the judge's bench. As described by Linda Wynn, another tenant from the building, "There was about one hundred people in the courtroom the day we went. The judge didn't give hardly anybody time to give their side of the story. The judge wasn't listening, he was just hurrying everyone up so he could get finished."

At one point, Judge Ward ruled for the first and only time all day that a tenant could not be legally thrown out of their apartment. People started clapping and shouting their support of the one victory for a tenant that they had seen. Ward, visibly shaken by the show of support, shouted for quiet from the bench. "This is no ball game," he said and more than a few people in court laughed. He then threatened anyone who made any further sound with removal from the courtroom.

When the Uptown cases were called, Jim Chapman, the tenants' attorney, presented the demand for jury trials. Judge Ward admitted that he was already familiar with the cases and had "been involved in discussions with other judges on this case." The Magnolia St. evictions have been transferred to Horan for assignment to other judges.

As soon as the 4513 N. Magnolia cases were

transferred, the routine evictions started again. Minute by minute, Ward continued to order family after family to move within 15 days. In extreme cases of hardship, he allowed 20 days, saying "that should be enough time to find a new place."

NOWHERE TO GO

Regardless of how easy Judge Ward thinks finding a new home is in Chicago, recent statistics openly contradict his opinion. In 1976, a study of people forced to move out of their Uptown homes showed that 40% were forced out of the community. At the same time, the survey showed that more than 80% of the available apartments were too small for large families and few allowed children.

Mr. Atkins summed up the problem later. "The city calls the housing we live in 'unsalvageable' so they let it fall apart. When we finally fight to make a decent building," he said, "then the courts help the landlord put us into the street. We get pushed all over the city and finally get moved right out of Chicago. All the tenants where I live want to dig in this time. Between us all, we're going to find a way to stay. We have to, there's no place left to go." Negotiations with the owner of 4513 Magnolia have already put off the evictions indefinitely, but tenants are ready in case any other threat of their home is made. □

LEGAL RIGHTS

Juvenile Justice: "Cruel And Unusual Punishment"

(Chicago, Ill.) "JUVENILE COURT ACT. (1) The purpose and policy of this Act is to secure for each minor subject hereto such care and guidance, preferably in his own home, as will serve the moral, emotional, mental and physical welfare of the minor and the best interests of the community."

In 1966, the state legislature "reformed" the juvenile court system. The reformed act which is now in force was passed because of the widespread abuse of the rights of young people charged with criminal acts. Prior to then, someone under 18 was not entitled to bail or a jury trial or immunity from testifying against themselves, or even to an attorney. After a Supreme Court decision ruled those practices unconstitutional, the legislature reluctantly passed a law recognizing some of those rights as applying to youth in the state. The Juvenile Court Act was passed and its "high" purposes are listed above.

The reformed law has had little effect: the juvenile court system has been made more workable, but it is still no better. It remains a huge state bureaucracy which has changed words and not conditions. In juvenile court, they call a prison a "home", they call conviction a "disposition", and they call the young prisoners "wards of the state." Certain rights are available now, but proceedings are still secret. The secrecy seems much more a protection for the court to hide behind than protection for the youth.

Several months ago, Brian Bowling, age 14, was arrested for joyriding. Brian had already been involved in a couple of minor scrapes with police and he had been on probation once before. This time, the court, with help from the Department of Child and Family Service (DCFS) and a dozen other "service" agencies, decided it was in the best interest of Brian to lock him up. Brian spent two months in the Audy Home (jail for county youth). There was no trial, no bail, and only secret proceedings closed to the public. At every hearing, Brian and his mother explained clearly that he should get the chance to come home to Uptown. The judge refused; all the experts had said the community would not be a good influence.

"That was easy for them to say," Mrs. Bowling



Mrs. Bowling and Brian (inset): "God knows how long it will take to get Brian back here. But I don't care what it's going to take, that just isn't any life for somebody that young."

explained angrily. "They all live out in Evanston and outside Chicago. You don't know what it's like in Uptown until you live here. Brian's been here all his life, he's grown up here, all his friends are here. And he told me there just isn't any way that they're going to keep him out."

The experts did give Brian and his mother one option: they could move out of the neighborhood and then Brian might be able to go home. Both Brian and his mother refused. "I didn't like the idea," she said. "How can I move when it's the same any place that I can afford to go. Right now, we're just making it and soon our monthly check is going to get cut. It's going to get harder but staying is the only thing I can do."

Brian was found delinquent on one of the charges. The judge sentenced him to the custody of DCFS and they have placed him in a residential home. In many ways, the sentence is much more harsh than if he were tried as an adult. Two months in jail probably would have been the end. Now Brian could be held in the "home" for as many as seven years, although 18 months is the average. Either way, the punishment when compared to adults is cruel and unusual.

Mrs. Bowling intends to fight until Brian can come

home. "You know who did this—those people from child services. They are just waiting for us to make a wrong move and then they will move in and take our kids. Well, they aren't going to pull the wool over my eyes this time. I know how these courts work and I'm going to get him back." DCFS receives money from the state for every child they place or continue to have custody over, so Mrs. Bowling feels that they will fight to keep Brian where he is.

"God knows how long it will take to get Brian back here. But I don't care what it's going to take, that just isn't any life for somebody that young." □

POLICE WATCH

Police Victim Warned: "Don't Push Too Hard"

(Chicago, Ill.) On July 13, 1977, Kim Cotter was living with a friend on Ridgeway road. "I came home early that night and went to sleep. Around midnight, someone was banging on my door saying they were going to break it in. Right after that, a couple of cops crawled through my window and started tearing the place apart." Kim said that she "kept asking to see a search warrant and they kept telling me that they didn't need one."

Ms. Cotter later learned that friends had come over to stay the night. One was on the back porch watching a squad arrest two men at the gas station next door. The police officers saw him and demanded to know what he was doing when he walked inside. They then ran up to the apartment. They pushed into Ms. Cotter's apartment after seeing her friend watching the arrests. Everyone in the apartment was taken to the police station and held for several hours, but no charges were ever brought against them.

"After I got home, I looked the place over. It was a mess. I checked and found that \$250 was gone. And the only people in the place after we left were the police. I know they took the money."

Kim filed a complaint at the officers' district station on Shakespeare St. She met with two sergeants who tried to convince her not to push too hard. But she refused. Since then, Ms. Cotter has

told by several different people that she had better "back off."

"Now my friends are getting told that if I don't stop," Ms. Cotter told **KEEP STRONG**, "then the police will set me up for an arrest. We all know people that they've done that to before." She said, "I don't care about the threats. Lopez, the arresting officer, is the one who busted up my apartment, one of them who took my money, and I spent a couple hours in jail." She feels that they know she is not lying, that the officers are aware of what they stole from the apartment. "I'm going to stay with this," Kim said. Her complaint will be forwarded to both the Internal Affairs Department and the Office of Police Standards. Reports of their investigation should be available within the month. □

New Police Bullet Guarantees Death Or Serious Injury

(Clayton, Calif.)—Here in Clayton, a pastoral hamlet near the base of Mt. Diablo with a history extending back to Wild West days, police now are equipped with a special new kind of bullet virtually guaranteed to bring a man down—and keep him down.

It's called the "Glaser Safety Slug," and when it enters the body, it stays there. After it penetrates, the slug's nose shatters and spews hundreds of tiny fragments in a cone-shaped pattern.



.38 caliber revolver which can use the deadly new "safety" bullets.

Once hit, a victim goes into instant shock and can't return fire against a policeman—even if he has a finger on the trigger at the time, the **San Francisco Chronicle** reports.

The other "safety" aspects, not for the target's benefit, are that the bullet won't ricochet to hurt innocent bystanders, nor will it pass through one human body and hit another.

"My concern was for the safety of the officer and the safety of the passerby," said Police Chief Billy H. Lorimer, who bought 400 rounds of the safety slug for his six full-time officers and eight reserves.

The manufacturer, Jack Canon of McAllen, Texas, said the bullets generally would be fatal except in a marginal hit, at an outward angle, or if an arm or leg were hit. If it were a limb, "it will knock you down and damage it considerably," Canon said.

Lorimer feels the new bullet—a .38 caliber that can be used in either .38 or .357 police revolvers—is worth its price of 68 cents for a slug, compared to 11 cents for a conventional bullet.

Lorimer said he didn't think of the safety slug as being more deadly than the regular .38 bullets, although he said people have been known to walk away after being shot from a conventional .38.

But he said police training dictates no warning shots: "If an officer has to draw his gun, he's pulling it for the reason to kill."

The .38 caliber slugs contain 330 bits of "fine chilled shot" suspended in liquid Teflon, according to Canon, who said they are legal and acceptable under the Geneva convention—unlike hollow point, or so-called dum-dum bullets.

Clayton has the only California police department so far to order the slugs, which are sold only to police officers, he said. But he said he does sell bullets to individual officers in California for use in their off-duty guns. □

Reprinted from The Black Panther

on this city's southside. Following a short interchange of gunfire, nine police arrived well armed with guns and tear gas.

A heavy barrage of tear gas was poured into the Roman home until Donald finally surrendered several hours later. According to the Milwaukee Journal, Detective Capt. William Joers said, at the time of capture, that he had never seen anyone withstand such a concentration of tear gas for so long.



Donald J. Roman: Although an autopsy did not disclose the cause of death, there is sentiment on Milwaukee's southside that excessive tear gassing by police was the cause.

The following Monday Donald was sent to Central State Hospital for a 60 day examination to determine if he was mentally capable of standing trial. He arrived there at 4:30 P.M. By 3:30 A.M. Tuesday morning Donald was declared dead. Central State Security Director Leslie Rounds said death appeared to be of natural causes and that there was nothing to indicate foul play or suicide.

The Dodge County coroner said Roman had no history of physical illness and had received no medication since his arrest five days earlier. Although an autopsy did not disclose the cause of death, there is sentiment on Milwaukee's southside that excessive tear gassing by police was the cause. □

Central State Insures Death Or Serious Injury

(Milwaukee, Wis.) On Thursday September 8th Donald J. Roman, 25, allegedly shot a Milwaukee newspaper carrier. Two officers answering a call about the incident went to Roman's home on 6th St.

Prison Guard Riot Officially Sanctioned

(Baltimore, Md.) On July 12, 1973, at about 6:30 P.M., an officer working in the Reception Center of the Maryland Penitentiary named J.O. Johnson brought a "reception" prisoner from his cell, took him to the shower area (along with several other guards) and beat him until he "apologized for getting smart" with Johnson. After beating this man, the guards went back and got his cell partner who protested the first beating. When the guards told Dennis Davis to come out, he refused and fought as they attempted to drag him into the shower area where his cell partner had been brutalized. Then Johnson ordered that he be taken to the segregation unit. After Davis was taken inside of the segregation unit the beatings resumed and word of what had happened was quickly brought back to the general population.

When J.O. Johnson came out of the segregation unit Davis' blood was on his shirt. Johnson went into the yard with a contingent of guards looking for inmate Robert Foulks who had said something to him earlier. Johnson located Foulks and told him he was wanted in the captain's office. By the time they reached the area near the office, a crowd had gathered. Johnson told everyone to clear out. Instead, everybody "cleared in" on top of Johnson and when they did clear out, Johnson laid with multiple stab wounds.

The events that followed J.O. Johnson's stabbing: Robert "Frog" Austin, Marshall "Eddie" Conway, Clifton Wiggins and Thomas "Taharka" Gaither and Robert Foulks are all political activists. They are all members of the Maryland Penitentiary Inter-communal Survival Collective, which is responsible for a Free Commissary Program for prisoners as well as a people's Library Program. They have often been subjected to attacks and harassment by guards while they've been in prison.

Following this series of events, Austin, Gaither, Wiggins, Conway, and Foulks were rounded up and taken to the segregation unit where, according to court testimony, they were beaten and tortured with pipes, table and chair legs, billy clubs, tranquilizer guns, and other weapons for over two hours before they were taken to the hospital.



"We can only assume that we as prisoners, as human beings, have no civil, human, or constitutional rights..."

After the beating, Marshall Eddie Conway had a compound fracture of the jaw, stitches in eight places in his head, leg injuries and a broken collar bone causing paralysis in his shoulder that reaches to his fingers. Thomas Gaither had a broken left wrist and finger, a stab wound in his arm that required nine stitches and multiple head wounds. He was beaten so badly on his legs that he could not walk. Robert Foulks had a chipped bone in his writing hand, extensive head injuries and wounds on his neck from being beat with an oak stick. Clifton Wiggins suffered extensive head injuries. Robert Austin was beaten the longest. One guard who took charge of his beating, McCollough, went into a fit while beating him and had to be dragged away by other guards and given a sedative.

Marshall Eddie Conway, who received a broken jaw, required such serious surgery that the prison hospital was not equipped to deal with it. Nevertheless, he was not moved to an outside hospital on orders from the warden. After pressure from his lawyer and family, however, eight days later the prison administration reluctantly agreed to send him to the University of Maryland Hospital so that necessary surgery could be performed. There was a two-week delay before the operation was done to reset the broken jaw.

A \$17.5 million suit was filed on behalf of the Maryland Penitentiary 5 in 1973 demanding compensatory damages for their injuries. In mid September, in spite of the admission by one prison officer that he had signed a false report about the incident and admission by another that he hit one inmate so hard with a tranquilizer gun that it broke, the plaintiffs' suit was dismissed.

In a statement released by the Maryland Pen 5 their response was "We can only assume that we as prisoners, as human beings, have no civil, human or constitutional rights and will continue to be brutalized at the hands of our keepers." □

Uptown's Model Community College—An Education To Fit Student's Needs

September kicked off the first month at the Uptown Campus of the Daniel Hale Williams University and, according to campus coordinator Slim Coleman, "began already to expose and overcome difficulties students usually face at colleges throughout the city."

DHWU's only criterion for entering the college is that the student be a mature adult, capable and willing to participate in the direction of his or her own education. Requirements for students concen-

trating in areas ranging from computer technology to nursing to accounting and secretarial science to urban sciences and urban services are based on achieving competence in these fields, not on the number of hours spent in courses that the student may find unimportant due to his or her life experience. As a result, the first task at the college was to establish strengths and weaknesses in students' basic learning skills so that a program could be developed to get their learning skills at the level necessary to attain competency in the fields they are choosing to study.

Both traditional and non-traditional methods of testing were used, according to Coleman. When standard tests were given, adequate preparation was given the students in how to take standard tests and practice runs were made. Simple techniques made known to middle class students are often not made known to students from the poor and working communities, causing students with quick minds to score poorly. With adequate preparation even the students with little formal educational background did well.

Non-traditional "testing methods" combined learning and testing at the same time. Basic learning skills like taking notes in class, organizing notes,



Students at Daniel Hale University, Uptown Campus: With the semester barely begun, two of the slightly over 100 students have already found jobs in the area they were studying to become skilled in.

outlining reading assignments, researching, organizing, outlining and writing papers were worked through step by step. Without the atmosphere of tensions and competition so often accompanying college level work, students discussed and criticized each others work and then went back to make improvement on their own. There was much discussion of the reason for these learning skills and examples were discussed showing particular ways they would benefit the student in college study and in many aspects of day to day survival. The material studied in developing and assessing student learning skills was also aimed at the particular community the students come from. A recording of people from the community talking about the great depression and parallels in the hard times we face today was used at a class on taking notes at lectures. In another case, the students attended a meeting of the Cook County Board of Govenors meeting where the community was demanding a clinic, and the next day presented their notes and analysis of the meeting.

Following the assessment of learning skills, which served to refresh and improve many of the students' ability to function, the students began the process of writing a learning contract. They researched the job they wanted, the qualifications necessary for that job and the training necessary to attain those qualifications. Then they began learning and discussing how they could turn their own life experience into college credits and many were surprised that in the day to day struggle for survival they had learned as much and more than others from sheltered backgrounds were earning credits and degrees for in colleges. Finally the students began planning out with advisors the courses and on the job experience they would undertake during their years at the Uptown Campus.

While many students' ideas and plans will change over the next few years the principle of the student planning and determining their education according to their own needs and goals is a big leap forward. While in most community colleges a course of instruction is jammed down the student's throat irrespective of the student's experience, competencies or goals, at DHWU, as one instructor commented, "the university is a resource, working to coordinate staff and facilities which the student determines are necessary to carefully and scientifically achieve their educational goals."

Already in the first few weeks two of the slightly over 100 students have been found part time jobs in the area they were studying to become skilled in. The student body at the Uptown Campus," said Coleman, "is really a growing organization, developing jobs skills, an analysis of the society we must survive in, and fighting for the jobs we have developed the qualifications to hold." □

7-Year Old Dies Repeating Racist Taunts

(Chicago, Ill.) A young Black girl, seven-year-old Mellaine Turner, died here last month after the cruel racial taunts of anti-busing demonstrators triggered a sickle cell anemia crisis which led to her death. She died delirious, repeating the chants of the racists: "Go back, go back, go back where you belong."

Young Mellaine and 83 other Black children arrived at the previously all-White Stevenson Elementary School under a voluntary busing plan, established to ease overcrowding in Black neighborhood schools. The Black youngsters were greeted with chants of "Go back! Go back! Go back where you belong!" and "Up with sickle cell anemia!"

Ten hours later Mellaine died of a sickle cell crisis which doctors say was likely to have been induced by the racist jeers. A cardiologist who asked not to be identified commented that the anti-busing mob "created the atmosphere for the (sickle cell) attack."

The cardiologist explained that the deadly sickle cell disease, which afflicts 70,000 Black Americans, would have reduced the Black child's ability to deal



Mellaine Turner: The anti-busing mob "created the atmosphere for the (sickle cell) attack," that killed the seven-year old girl.

with stress. Mellaine's parents, Joseph and Helen Turner, insisted that their daughter appeared to be quite normal when she left for school that morning with her twin brother, Marvin.

The day after, when the news of Mellaine's death sifted through the Stevenson mob, the racist taunts only intensified. "Hooray for sickle cell," several Whites chanted loudly. Since the implementation of the voluntary busing plan two weeks ago, White racist violence against Black Chicagoans has raged unchecked.

A maximum of slightly over 6,000 Black and Latino children can be bussed from crowded, dilapidated schools to predominately White "under-utilized" schools in southwest Chicago. At the end of the first week, the plan had only 1,000 participants.

In scenes reminiscent of racially troubled Boston, White racists have stationed themselves outside of school buildings to verbally and physically abuse young Black pupils participating in the integration plan.

A Chicago police official admits that the bigots are "a bunch of young thugs and hoodlums." Yet, no stern measures have been taken by police to curb anti-busing protests. One White police spokesman threatened a "sickout" if they are forced to clamp down on the anti-busing mobs. □

Reprinted from The Black Panther

HEALTH NEWS

The Runaround Was Worse Than The Bite

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) Dog bites are a serious matter. Not only does the wound need to be cleaned and dressed with salve and bandages, but the dog itself has to be checked for rabies. If the dog, or any animal, bites someone and it is discovered to have rabies then the victim of the bite is required to go through a painful series of anti-rabies shots lasting 13 days. If the animal is not found and there is no proof that it had rabies shots, then the victim must still get the thirteen shots.

Though there has not been any cases of rabies reported in recent years, the danger of rabies reappearing cannot be taken lightly. As rats and

other rodents are on the increase in the cities, so are the number of loose dogs. Early morning joggers at McCarren Park and others on their way to first shift jobs at the crack of dawn, can testify to the packs of loose dogs running the streets of Greenpoint and other sections of New York. In addition pet owners are increasingly unable to afford the costs of the preventive rabies shots and increased veterinarian rates. As a result fewer dogs are actually getting immunized against the deadly disease.

Gail Reyley, age 12, of Greenpoint, recently suffered a very bad dogbite. Her father Joe, who owns "The Lighthouse" now wonders what is the greater danger, the dogbites themselves or the negligence of the public and private agencies, responsible for animal health in New York, which refused to test the dog for rabies. In other words, "The runaround was worse than the bite."

Gail was bit as she and a friend were walking along Calyer St., on a recent Tuesday afternoon. A dog chained to the door of a local store broke loose and bit Gail. The extremely painful bite was deep and bled badly.

Although the police arrived at the scene, they didn't offer to take Gail to Greenpoint Hospital or



Gail Reyley and her father Joe: Two private and one public institution refused to test the possibly rabid dog that had bitten Gail, despite Joe's willingness to pay on the spot for the tests.

call an ambulance. Nor did they take the dog, so it could be checked for rabies, even though the dog had scratches and bruises all over its body, and much of its hair was falling out. Instead they took down the name and address of the dog's owner and told her to go home with her dog.

When Gail's father Joe found out about the bite, he went to the police station house on Messerole and asked why the police didn't take the dog to the hospital for a rabies test. The reply was, "There hasn't been a case of rabies for 50 years, so we don't bring the dog to the hospital anymore."

The next day Joe went to see the owner of the dog and told her he wanted to get the dog checked out. Together they drove the dog to Northside-Williamsburg where the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is located. When they inquired there about testing the dog for rabies, they were told the same thing, "We don't give rabies tests anymore." They advised the owner to take the dog home for 10 days and to report if within the 10 days the dog either died or developed suspicious symptoms. For \$7 a day, the ASPCA would watch the dog.

Not satisfied, Joe called the Board of Health. Their answer, "There hasn't been a case of rabies in 30 years." So again, no test, only the same advice, "take the dog home for 10 days..."

Joe was determined to get the tests. He felt it wasn't right for Gail to have to wait 10 days before knowing whether she might be infected or not. As Joe put it, "You can't always go by the statistics." So Joe and the owner of the dog went over to the humane society in Queens. They refused to give the test, "Take the dog home for 10 days...."

By this time Joe was really mad. Two private and one public institution refused to test the dog, despite Joe's willingness to pay on the spot for the tests. When he got to the Dog and Cat hospital on 57th St. and Riverside Drive in Manhattan, he told the veterinarian he wanted the test, he would pay for right then and there. If the dog wasn't tested, Joe would begin making "telephone" calls, and someone would be held "responsible."

But the vet was very cooperative. He not only took a skin test on the dog, (a simple test which was 90% conclusive that the dog was okay), the veterinarian also treated the dog for mange and an ear infection. Joe paid for the entire works. The ten days have passed and now Gail can be assured that she won't get rabies.

Though the fear of rabies is gone, Joe's questions remain: "Why didn't the cops take the dog to the hospital, like they would have if it was the cops kid

who was bitten? Why do they leave it up to the owner to watch the dog for 10 days? If the dog were to die, she might not report it for fear of being sued. Why wouldn't the Board of Health and two other responsible agencies perform a simple test?" Though the answers of these agencies was a pat, "Well, there hasn't been any rabies in 30 or 50 years," Joe put it this way; "We pay taxes for something, especially when lives are concerned. It could affect a lot of people, not only my kid. But it's like everything else they cut back." □

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Community Dinner A Huge Success

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) On Sunday, August 28th, the New York Chapter of the ISC sponsored its first community dinner. A large crowd of people, ranging in age from 2 months to 87 years, enjoyed a fun filled afternoon, highlighted by music, speeches, and plentiful delicious food.

The event began with Karen Sandler, co-ordinator of the Greenpoint People's Community Food Cooperative, welcoming everyone and thanking them for making the dinner a success. No further introduction was needed to the delicious dinner of baked Ziti, chicken, assorted salads, breads, cakes and cookies, prepared by community volunteers, many of whom stayed up long into the night to make sure everything came out just right.

With everyone's appetite satisfied, N.Y. ISC representative, Marc Kaplan, spoke about the success of the food co-op, and announced the initiation of a new survival program in the community, the Welfare Legal Defense Program. Marc commented, "Many times we go downtown to get benefits that we need and are told we aren't eligible, are given such a runaround or are treated with such disrespect that we give up. Because we don't really know what our rights are and because we are alone, we can be confused and turned around. The purpose of this and other survival programs is to provide a structure, a vehicle, through which poor and oppressed people can develop unity and struggle to get the things we need for our survival."

Marc went on to explain the history of the ISC and its relationship to the Black Panther Party, remarking, "When we look around the country we



ISC representative Marc Kaplan (left) and Joe Batka (right) at community dinner. Says Mr. Batka: "This is a very nice event but we need to join together and get more people involved, especially men in the community."

can see that it is the Black Panther Party that stands out as the clearest example of an organization that is working in the interests of poor and working people and that has been able to develop some very significant programs and win some very significant victories." He also talked about the recent return of Black Panther Party President and founder Huey P. Newton and the need to support the struggle for justice for Huey.

After the speakers, the people enjoyed some excellent music provided by Bev Grant and Jerry Mitnick. The crowd really got into particular songs—"Mama", "Janie's Janie", "Default", and "You can get it if you really want." Where participation was called for, the audience enthusiastically joined in, adding such names as Councilman Abe Gerges and Rockefeller, when asked who is to blame for the current "fiscal crisis" during the song "Default." The song is about the bankers, corporations and politicians who have robbed the city and then blame it on the people.

One older woman was heard to comment about the

music, "I cried during every song. It's not often that you hear songs anymore that tell the truth and talk about us."

One of the highlights of the day, was the presentation of "Community Service Awards", by Marc Kaplan to two young people—Diane Cusimano and Roland Bonilla for "their outstanding service to the people of the community." They were given a standing ovation by the crowd.

With the music completed and awards presented, everyone helped themselves to the delicious homemade cookies, cakes and pastries available for desert. People left the dinner very slowly—as if not wanting to lose the spirit of unity—and the good feeling of the afternoon.

One young sister said, "I think it's really great the way people pulled together and did this. I didn't really think this was going to happen but when I saw all the people arriving with food in one hand and kids in the other, it was really a great feeling. We should really have a dinner like this every month." □

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Lead Poisoning Becoming A Threat To Factory Workers

(Chicago, Ill.) Lead intoxication is a serious poisoning that can leave a worker disabled for life. It occurs when lead dust is breathed in through the mouth or nose. Someone exposed over long periods of time will suffer constant fatigue and weakness, then severe stomach cramps and headaches, and finally anemia, nerve damage and injuries to the kidneys and liver. Once inhaled lead becomes stored in the bone marrow and is released to the body through the reproduction of blood cells. Consistently high levels of lead can harm a person's reproductive system, cause sterility and lead to deformities in the children of the exposed individual. There is no "safe level" of lead in the body.

The K & W battery plant in Chicago has been the scene of a high lead dust for many years. At least for the last three years the company, which is owned by Westinghouse, has known about the dangerous lead dust problem.

Also, about three years ago several of the men who work at K & W began to notice that something was wrong. "At first I thought I was just becoming irritable, but then I started to get very tired and my legs began to feel like lead when I walked. They hurt a lot and so did my stomach," described one worker of his condition at a union meeting demanded by a group of K & W workers.

Present at the meeting were over 50 K & W workers who suffer from lead intoxication. The majority have been laid off because the company said they could not conform to doctor's orders and put them back to work in low-lead areas. Others are off on temporary sick leaves while some are fighting to get their jobs back. All want K & W to bring its factory up to health standards. A functional ventilation system, properly maintained would solve the problem.

"We haven't had adequate union representation from the union president yet. The only reason we got this meeting is because 13 of us signed a petition, had it notarized and sent it to him. We weren't sure they were going to come until we got here," complained Augusta Appleby. "I think it's too bad for a person that's been off sick with lead poisoning to return to

work. Doctor's statements don't make much difference. The plant is too bad for the ones working there to continue to work. Soon they'll also be sick. If the union can't do anything about it the government should be able to," continued Mr. Appleby.

Augusta Appleby worked at K & W for nine years before he became disabled by the lead that had been building inside his body. When he finally found a



Augusta Appleby (center) worked at K and W Battery Co. for nine years before he became too disabled from lead intoxicification to work there any longer.

doctor who recognized his problem for what it was he had already been in and out of hospitals and to and from doctors again and again with no success. He has now been off sick for 12 months. Two months ago he was cut off workmen's compensation. The company sent him a letter saying that if he didn't return in 2 years he would be permanently terminated. His doctor has told him that to return to K & W as long as lead levels in the air remain high would surely kill him. "What am I to do? I have nine years seniority. I can't get another job because I couldn't pass the physical. I can either follow my doctor's orders and probably face unemployment or welfare or I can return to K & W and kill myself."

Mr. Appleby is not alone in his plight. Dennis Poalvoorde began working at K & W nearly four years ago. In February 1976 he was rushed to the



Dennis Poalvoorde (left) won his arbitration case against the company and they must put him back to work. Will they give him a job that will not further aggravate his already serious lead problem?

emergency room of a local hospital when his lead blood level reached over 200. The doctors told me, "that this was the highest count that anyone has ever been known to have and still be alive."

After this episode Dennis took three months off from work. When he returned he brought with him a doctor's statement that he should not be exposed to a high lead area of the plant. They put him to work sweeping floors. "After two weeks they put me back in grid casting which is a high lead area."

On October 19, 1976 Dennis was fired. "I feel they fired me because I had lead and my count went up again." In early September Dennis won his arbitration case against the company. They now will be forced to take him back to work. But the question lingers: will they give him a job that will not further aggravate his already serious lead situation?

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reported to the K & W workers meeting that they had plans to take K & W Battery to court to get compliance with health and safety standards.

Following a study done by OSHA last January K & W was cited for the high levels of lead dust in the air and inadequate ventilation. Little has changed since then. It is expected that initial hearings in the case will begin in the next month. □

Cancer Linked To Industry In Baltimore, Md.

(Baltimore, Md.) Evidence of links between this city's high rate of death from cancer and its many industrial plants. Among the city's industrial workers, their friends and neighbors who live in row house neighborhoods surrounded by industry, the mortality percentages for cancer are even higher than the extremely high rate for the city overall, reports the Baltimore Sun.

Researchers from John Hopkins University have isolated seven "pockets" of cancer in Baltimore. Clues to the cause of the high rate of cancer include death certificates in city files, traces of arsenic in the soil of industrial neighborhoods and patterns of wind



Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s Sparrows Point plant alarms cancer researchers.

currents in the city. Researchers say it is difficult to document a direct link between cancer and someone's work place because of the often long time it takes for cancer to develop. But the workers in the many chemical using plants in the Baltimore area disagree.

According to an inventory of 80 known or strongly suspected carcinogens (cancer-causes) being compiled by the state health department's environmental Health Administration, 79 of the 80 are present in Maryland. The substances range from familiar ones like arsenic, mercury and asbestos to Bis-chloromethyl ether and diphenyl ercuric dodecyl succinate. Allied Chemical Company, Bethlehem Steel, Continental Oil and Porter Hayden are a few of the factories mentioned as high cancer causing plants.

In the wake of an intense media campaign it was announced that the opening of a new Center for Occupational Safety and Health is planned in the next several months. The Center is expected to focus on links between high cancer rates in Baltimore and environmental and industrial pollution. □

FIGHTING CITY HALL

Southside Milw. Community Gears Up For Residency Council Election

(Milwaukee, Wis.) For the past several months KEEP STRONG has been covering the struggle of the Milwaukee South Side ICDP Residents council to remove its director, Ted Seaver, from his position. The Residents Council is an elected community board which meets regularly with the Director: Up until this last January, the Residents Council was made up of volunteers and usually rubber-stamped anything the director requested. In January of this year an election was held to fill the spots on the Residents Council. During this election a community slate was put together and overwhelmingly won the majority of the seats on the Council. Since that time



Judy Phillips: "The ICDP should be a representative of poor people."



Oscar Fabian: "I feel really frustrated because I can't serve the people like I was elected to."

the Council has gotten no cooperation from Ted Seaver which finally led to the call for his dismissal. The Residents Council received support from community groups all around the city and state as they demanded that ICDP funds be put into valuable community programs. Accusations such as charges that members of the Residents Council were "brain washed" were made more and more by Seaver and city officials as community support for the efforts of the Residents Council grew.

Judy Phillips, a member of the Residents Council, lives on 6th Street. She's lived on the southside for 32 years and has 7 children. Judy first came into contact with the ICDP in 1969. Shortly after that she was hired as an ICDP worker. It didn't take long before she became frustrated with the job because, "I saw the need in the community, but felt held back." She left her job at ICDP soon afterward but, "I kept involved in the community and tried to help. People ask me all the time where are the ICDP workers?" Judy believes that the ICDP "should be a representative of poor people, and as long as our needs aren't met our country is failing us. I don't want anyone telling me that a quarter of a piece of pie is a whole piece, I want it all! One of the things

that Judy is most encouraged by is the cooperation and support the Latino and White members of the Council give each other. "The Residents Council is a good example of how races can work together."

Oscar Fabian lives on South 7th St. He's lived on the southside for 20 years and has four children. Oscar used to work as a volunteer with the Tenants Union, "when it was good. It was a very strong group but soon most of the core workers were transferred out and finally the whole thing was moved into the ICDP office." Oscar's history of concern for decent housing goes back a long way. Oscar was one of the people who moved his family into the abandoned army barracks as a housing protest. "We eventually were forced out by the welfare office and were relocated in a house on the northside. We stayed there for a year and then moved back to the southside." In January Oscar decided to run on his own, "to see where all the money was going." As a member of the Residents Council Oscar too felt the same frustration as Judy. "I feel bad that the Residents Council can't do things their way. What the hell are we there for? What do they need us for? I think everyone under Seaver, except for a few of them, are scared about their jobs, and I feel really frustrated because I can't serve the people like I was elected to."

As KEEP STRONG goes to press the southside community is preparing for another Residents Council election October 6. The present board was not allowed to sit for an entire year. Pat Bauer, another board member stated that, "They'll do anything to get us out of there, but they don't know that the community is tired of SDC and downtown tricks, and we're just going to have to struggle a little harder, because we got them on the run." □

City Services Pulled From Chicago Northside

(Chicago, Ill.) Reduced city services in the Uptown areas has meant much more than just dirty streets and sidewalks cluttered with paper. Those are only the outward signs, along with the scattered broken glass, the craters in the street, and the flooded intersections after flash rains. Slowly over the last 10 years, Chicago has pulled its services out of Uptown. The impact was first hardly noticeable, then annoying and now dangerous. Along Wilson Ave., the area is an obstacle course: the abandoned buildings, the vacant lots, the street potmarked from Broadway to Clark.



Along Wilson Ave., the area is an obstacle course; the abandoned buildings, the vacant lots, the street potmarked from Broadway to Clark.

For both Brenda Bowyers and Deb Owens, the hazards were costly. In two separate accidents, both caused by the City's failure to maintain the area, each woman was seriously hurt. In late spring, Deb Owens slipped while crossing the street in front of her house. She slipped on the side of a huge pothole, two feet deep and nearly three feet wide. "The pothole had been there for weeks and no one did anything," Mrs. Owens said. The fall left her with a broken jaw, a few broken teeth and deep cuts to her face. There will be some scars and her teeth will be in braces for several months.

Ms. Bowyer's injuries were caused by the same type of situation: the failure of the city to perform basic city street repairs. "I was riding on the back of a friend's motorcycle. We were going around the end of Wilson near the lake and hit a huge hole in the street. After that all I remember is being caught in the wheel of the bike. The ambulance came and I was taken to the hospital," Ms. Bowyers reported. Ms. Bowyers tore ligaments in her leg and was on crutches for several weeks before she could walk normally. Since the city was responsible for both injuries, suits have been filed against the City of Chicago for personal injuries. □

Dallas City Council OK's Rezoning Despite Strong Protest

(Dallas, Tex.) In spite of a dynamic campaign by a broad coalition to force this city to shelve its proposal to rezone 120 blocks in old East Dallas, the Dallas City Council approved the controversial plan. The proposal, as reported in the July, 1977 issue of **KEEP STRONG** will most seriously affect the many low-income families and senior citizens of this diverse community.

The plan will return large areas to a single-family designation. The affected area is roughly bounded by Munger, the Santa Fe tracks, Columbia, Haskell, Live Oak, Paulus, and Gaston, reports the **People's Voice**.

The plan calls for over 600 acres of the 758 acre area to be rezoned. Ten neighborhoods are defined and a separate zoning designation established for each.

Backers of the plan hope that it will encourage financial institutions to invest in old East Dallas. The supporters of the rezoning effort are headed by landlord-developer Bob Logan and Doug Newby.

But Helen Jones, a member of **Citizens Against Blanket Zoning (CABZ)**, says that the plan will have

a severe impact on the neighborhood. CABZ is a group of 900 East Dallas homeowners, landlords and small business owners who oppose the rezoning.

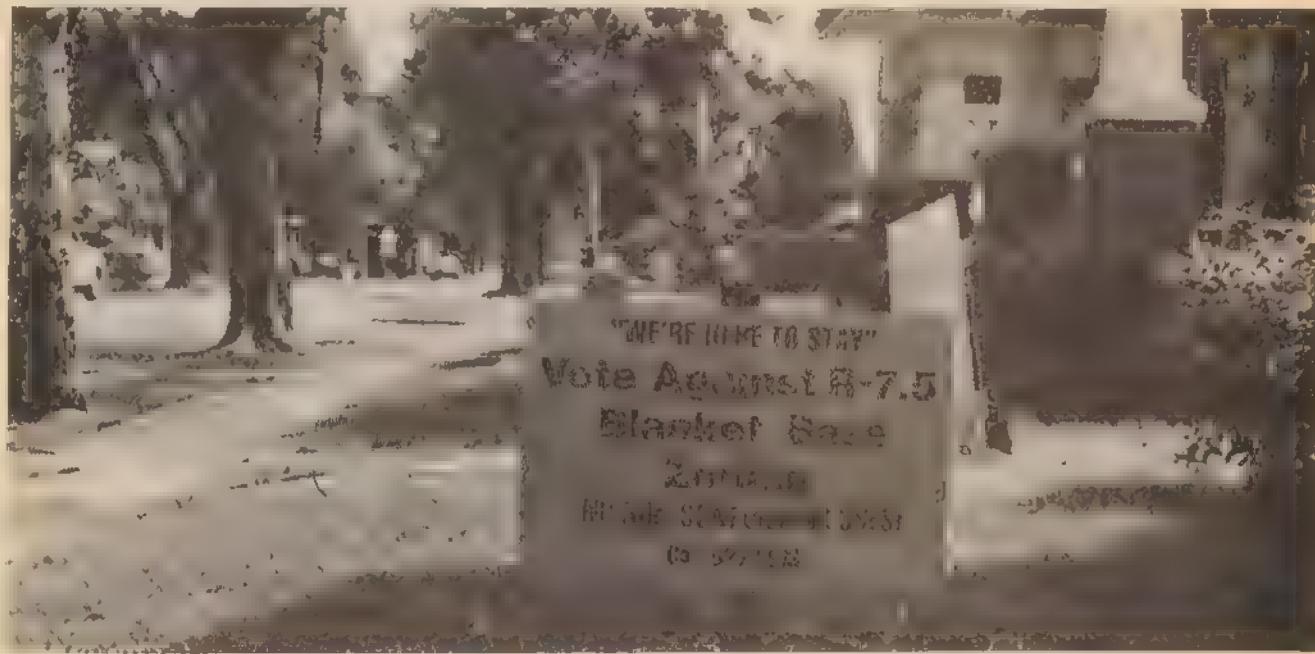
They base their opposition on the issue of "non-conforming uses," a term used to describe lots or buildings which do not match the zoning in a particular area.

"The research that we conducted over a four-month period showed that in certain areas non-conforming uses would be as high as 80%," said Mrs. Jones. "It makes us wonder if the city wants to stabilize or eliminate our neighborhood."

Charlie Young, coordinator for the Bois d'Arc Patriots, an East Dallas community self-help organization, said that his group also opposed the change. "We feel that those who supported the change are missing the point," said Young.

"Old East Dallas is statistically the second poorest community in Dallas. Making the area attractive to banks is fine, but our neighbors cannot afford conventional credit terms anyway. If the City Council were interested in helping the current residents to stop decline in our neighborhood, they would protect existing uses and push for low-interest loans," said Mr. Young.

Mrs. Jones and Mr. Young charged that the city is following in the path of other cities in the country that have tried to "urban renew" the low-income people out of their neighborhoods and hasten urban decay, in hopes that developers could move in and attract wealthier people, thereby boosting the city tax base. □



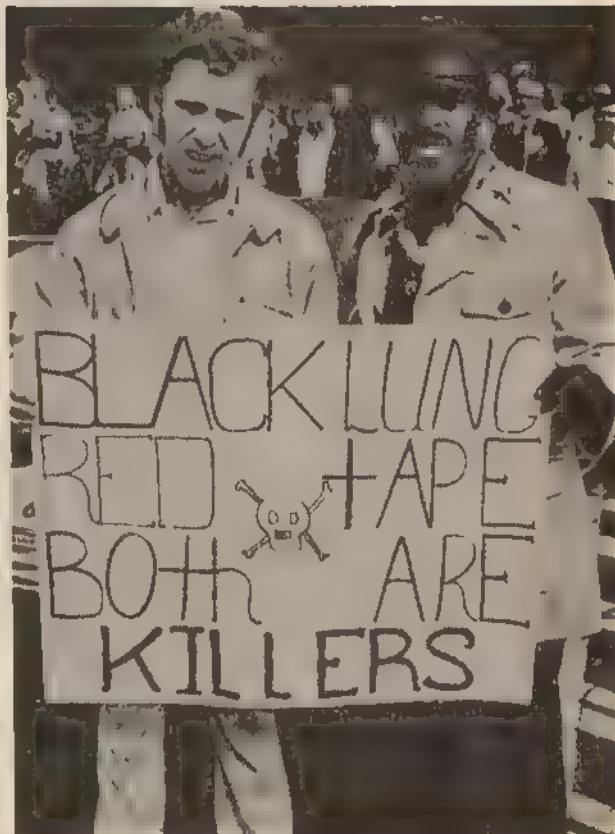
Hundreds of residents in Old East Dallas displayed signs opposing the Blanket Zoning decision.

CHICAGO EX-MINERS JOIN WASHINGTON LOBBY FOR NEW BLACK LUNG LAW

Midnight, Wednesday, September 14, 1977, The Harrington Hotel, Washington, D.C. Chester Sheppard, 50 years old, veteran of 18 years in the coal mines, has fallen into an exhausted sleep interrupted by fits of coughing. Bransom Blankenship, 54 years old, 21 years in the mines, eases the shoes off his swollen feet. Both men are black lung victims and are part of a delegation from the Chicago Area Black Lung Association which had joined the large delegations of the Black Lung Associations from the coal fields in an intense day of lobbying for a new black lung benefits bill.

The Chicago group had travelled all night by car. They then immediately launched into the hard day of lobbying and it had taken a heavy physical toll on the two black lung victims. More than 200 congressmen had been seen. It is this kind of spirit of self-sacrifice and collective determination that began in the 60's to end the long years of cover-up by the coal operators. Finally by the early 70's the existence of coal workers pneumoconiosis was publicly exposed and congress was forced to enact the original black lung benefits program.

Now, after five years of betrayal it was time for a change. During that time the administrative rules for carrying out black lung law had been rewritten making it nearly impossible to get benefits. Year after year the testimony of medical experts, union officials and miners themselves, decrying the need for a new law to correct the abuses of the Department of Labor administered program, was passed from committee to committee only to be shelved while those in power called for more coal production.



Mine workers express sentiment about Dept. of Labor bureaucracy which has denied them their black lung benefits.

Now, the old coal miners and widows (the same ones whose courage built the UMWA and the CIO) decided to again to take things in hand. Some of the group were able to obtain benefits early in the



Bill Worthington, Regional Black Lung Association President, addresses CABLA meeting.

program but they are fighting on for the less fortunate miners and widows who have been shut out, and they are fighting for future generations.

In the face of the Carter administration's refusal to give any significant support to the much needed reform bill, the disabled miners, whose meager financial resources limited them to one day of lobbying, sought to correct the long train of abuses they have received from the coal operators and their allies in the press and various government agencies. The old story that coal dust is not a health problem has been replaced by a new one. First the operators say that the so-called dust control now in effect has removed the problem of black lung and second that the older miners, who worked before the so-called dust control have all been taken care of.

These two stories form the basis of the operators' justifications for the 1981 cut-off date of the federal black lung benefits program. In fact, "dust control" does not exist and numerous older miners have never received benefits, being unfairly denied because of absurd standards that CABLA chairman Lawrence Zornes has called, "a game of poker with a marked deck." The lobbying effort centered around changing these standards and above all, around ending the 1981 cut-off.

"Until the operators have to spend more for the miners' disability than they would have to pay for cleaning up the mines, there can be no talk of a 1981 cut-off. Some critics of HR 4544, the Black Lung Reform Act of 1977, have called it a 'giveaway pension program.' We say that the demand of the Black Lung Association is and has always been for a model program of occupational and preventative health for this nation's poor and working people," said Regional Black Lung Association President Bill Worthington.

Although the odds seemed stacked against them, the Black Lung Associations carried on with spirit and determination, making their presence felt by literally the entire U.S. congress and demolishing the stories of the operators with a sophistication that the congressmen and their assistants had not anticipated. The day of lobbying served notice to all that the rank and file movement for justice in the coal fields is not dead.

With money running short, the bulk of the groups had to return home before the bill came to the floor, leaving regional president Worthington and others behind to keep an eye on things. On September 14 and 15 the effort bore fruit. The House passed HR 4544 and the next day, the Senate passed a bill, which although weaker than the House bill provides for a permanent program and an end to the 1981 cut-off.

The fight for a black lung bill in 1977 is not over, however. A conference must be held between a committee of the Congress and the Senate to resolve the difference between the two bills. If the conference succeeds, the unified bill must then be voted on again by the two houses before it goes to the president to be signed into law.

The Chicago Area Black Lung Association has urged all progressive people to promptly write letters to their U.S. Representatives and Senators urging them to use their influence to get a good bill out of the conference. Among the provisions they feel are most important to be included are: 1) ending the 1981 cut-off; 2) a ban on the routine re-reading of positive x-rays by B-readers who are paid by the Department of Labor to reread them as negative; 3) provisions for less restrictive permanent medical standards; and 4) a provision that in widows' claims where no medical records exist or they are incomplete, that lay testimony be enough. □

Presentation To Hospital Governing Commission Falls On Apparently Deaf Ears

UPTOWN RESIDENTS PRESENT CLINIC PROPOSAL

Armed with previous assurance by Dr. James Haughton, through a member of his staff, that a health clinic for the Uptown community was forthcoming, over 150 Uptown residents attended the Cook County Health and Hospitals Governing Commission monthly meeting on September 20, to make their presentation for that clinic. Haughton is the director of this Commission.

All, however, was not as it appeared to be. The seven commissioners present knew nothing about the

request for the clinic which would be set up with existing funds held by the Governing Commission. They knew nothing of the eight month long struggle by the community to get this clinic established. Nor did they know of any of the conversations which the hospital director had had with the City's Board of Health Director, Murray Brown, regarding Brown's opposition to the clinic; nor of Brown's agreement not to block the establishment of this clinic as long as services already provided by the city's clinic were not duplicated.



Uptown residents boarding busses to attend the monthly meeting of the Cook County Health and Hospitals Governing Commission.



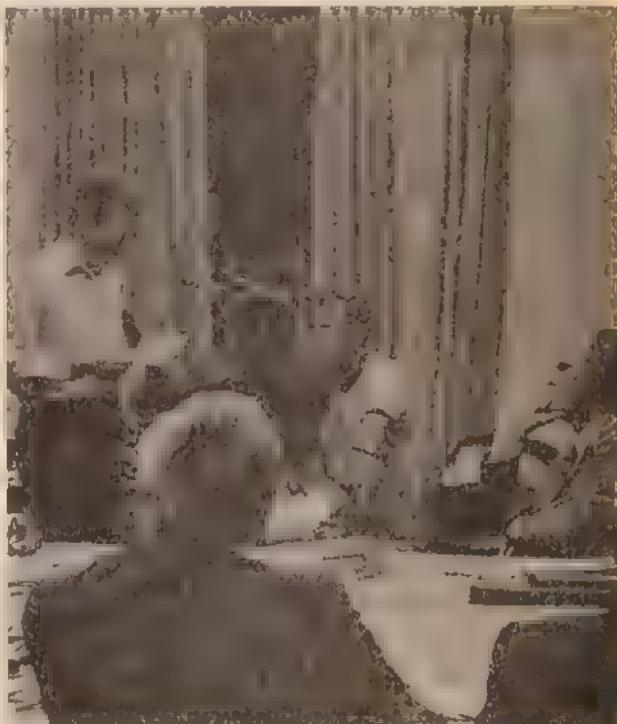
Jack Hart, Coordinator of the Uptown People's Community Service Center: "We have watched as men like Clovis Warren, . . . have died, gagging from black lung disease while doctors in our community continue to deny the existence of their disease."

They decided that they would investigate the request and go back to the Board of Health to negotiate.

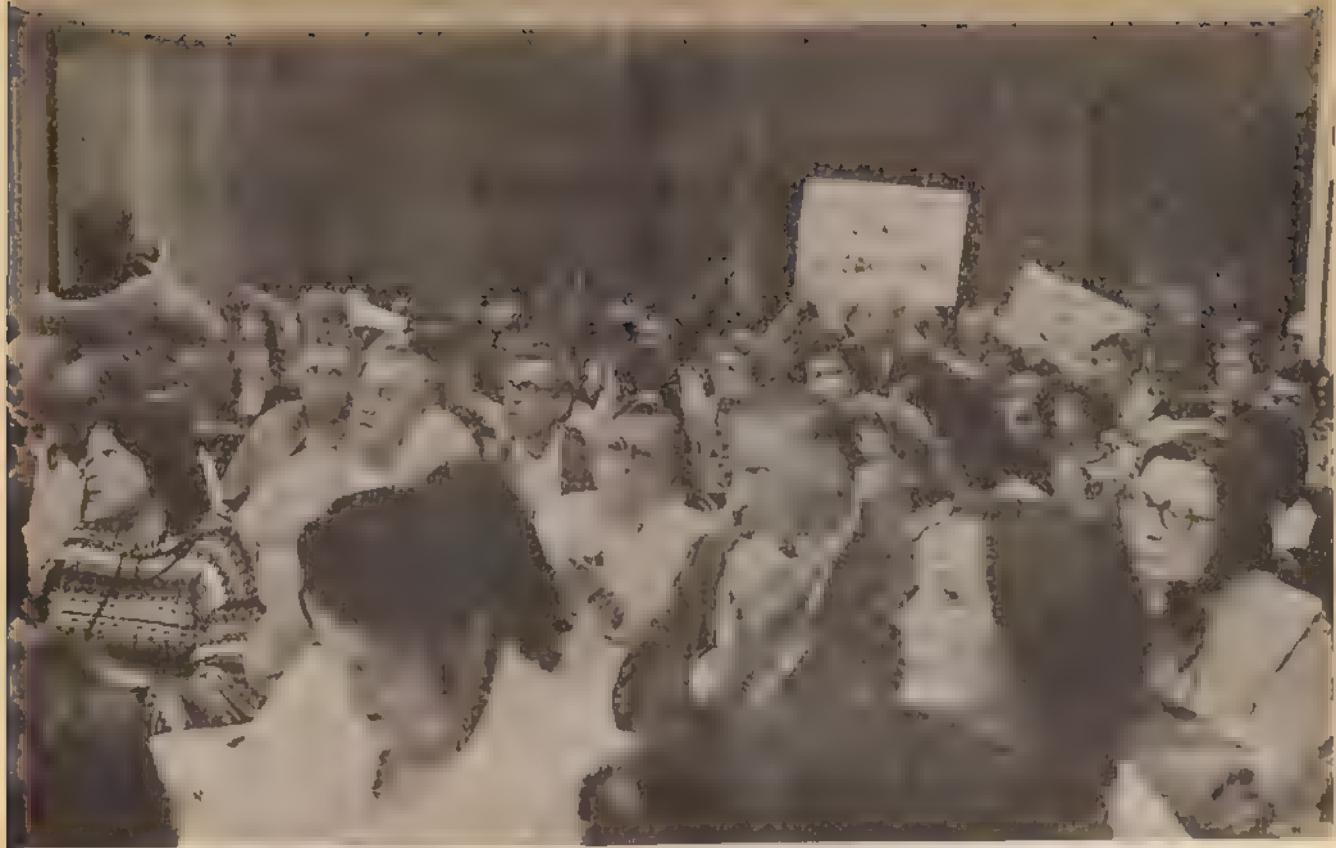
The many Uptown residents present were angered. The powerful and well-documented presentation made by Jack Hart, Coordinator of the Uptown People's Community Service Center, and Lawrence Zornes, Chairman of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association, apparently fell on deaf and unprepared ears. Hart and Zornes acted as spokespersons for their organizations as well as for the Intercommunal Survival Committee and the Uptown Tenants Survival Union. These groups have worked together since early this year to make a comprehensive family health clinic with a special black lung facility a reality in Uptown.

"We do not have sufficient health care facilities in our community which are geared towards meeting the specific needs of our people, needs which stem directly from our living and working conditions," Mr. Hart began. "Our children suffer from all sorts of respiratory and other related diseases stemming from inadequate heat in our homes. We have watched as men like Clovis Warren, Arthur Smith and Jose Galvan have died, gagging from black lung disease while doctors in our community continue to deny the existence of their disease. We watched as people like Bessie Simpson died because she was unable to get a respirator that she needed to stem off emphysema. We daily see people sick, who go to our many neighborhood "clinics" only to walk out of these clinics with nothing but valiums and "nerve

medicine." We need a health care facility which will be run by a community board which will be sensitive to our particular problems with the concern and dedication to institute the kind of programs which will improve and help to deal with our many complex



Lawrence Zornes, Chairman of CABLA, along with others, has worked for many months to make a health clinic with a black lung facility a reality in Uptown.



The degree of support which has been shown for this new clinic in the community has been overwhelming.

health problems.

"Since early March when we first learned of the possibility of Cook County Hospital setting up a clinic in Uptown, the people of Uptown have tried to demonstrate the need for this clinic. We feel we have adequately shown this need. We have held two demonstrations at City Hall (each with approximately 200 people present) and have successfully removed the opposition to this clinic which was coming from the City of Chicago and its health officials. We have conducted an extensive community survey (in which over 2000 people were interviewed) to document some of our serious needs for medical attention; and finally, with the cooperation of the staff of Cook County Hospital, we held a health fair on August 13, in order to demonstrate with concrete medical evidence some of our many health problems.

"At the community health fair, operating at full capacity for approximately four hours, over 300 people were screened. Of the 308 people screened 32% or 97 people were found by the doctors to be in need of some type of clinical follow-up.

"Let us point out that the degree of support which has been shown for this new clinic in the community has been overwhelming. The presence of so many people from Uptown tonight is testimony to this fact. In addition, many of the businessmen of our

community have supported this endeavor. In fact, the busses which brought us down here tonight were paid for by businessmen from our community.

"In addition, we have sought and received support from a cross section of community political, religious and labor leaders in the city. Tonight we submit letters of support from Congressman Sidney Yates, Alderman David Rhodes, Alderman Dick Simpson, Mr. Spencer Austin of the Democratic Union Organizing Committee of the Seafarers International Union, Local 777, Mr. Jack Spiegel, Director of the Shoe Workers Union, Mr. Richard Poethig of the Institute on the Church in Urban-Industrial Society, and Mr. Rodney Weed of the Community Renewal Society. State Senator Harold Washington not only expressed his support, but is here with us tonight."

In closing, Mr. Hart said, "We have an uneasy feeling as we notice signs of attack against one of the few remaining public health institutions that people like ourselves depend on... Will the Commission expand or curtail services? Will they establish this clinic in Uptown?" In leaving, the angry community residents again asked these questions while stating their firm determination that for once they would not go away never to be heard from again. Instead they agreed, as they caucused outside the meeting room, that they would use every means available to them to successfully get their badly needed health clinic. □

CHICAGO COALITION TO STOP CARTER'S WELFARE PRO- POSAL LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN

Resistance to Jimmy Carter's recently disclosed welfare plan has begun to snow-ball as welfare recipients and the unemployed begin to realize the true intent of the president's reform proposal. At the September 11 community forum held at the Uptown People's Community Service Center the theme of the day was "Stop Jimmy Carter's Welfare Proposal" as over 150 people crowded into the center's Uptown facility to hear presentations by Slim Coleman of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, Dovey Coleman of the Uptown Legal Aid Services Board, Marion Stamps of the Tranquility Welfare Rights Organization and Cathy Shanley of the Center's Welfare Defense Program. But most of all, examples presented by those who came to learn more about what the president has planned for their lives clarified for all the vicious nature of each aspect of the reform proposal. Again and again the point was driven home. As one father summed up his feelings, "I'd have been a damned fool not to have come to this meeting."

According to the Carter proposal, a single parent whose youngest child is over six would have to work part-time. A parent whose youngest child is over 12 would have to work full time. Community resident Freddie Stone had something to say about this. "I'm a single parent and I have three young wild boys. If welfare expects me to go to work and leave my children all day to grow up in Uptown alone, they have another thing coming. I'm a good father and I intend to raise my children right. They need my

guidance in this tough world."

Concerning a two parent family where one parent is expected to work, another father said, "I'm a skilled worker. I've done carpentry, plumbing and construction work. I'm used to making \$8.00-\$9.00 an hour; I'm used to providing. I have seven children and a wife. I got laid off almost two years ago. Unemployment told me that my prospects for work are poor and that I would have to take a low-paying job if I was offered one. They said that my unemployment would be cut off if I was offered a job and I turned it down. Well, minimum wage wouldn't even feed my family, let alone pay the rent and bills and put everyone through school. Even with extra welfare money we could never make it. Can you imagine if my prospects for a decent wage are poor, what about the man without my skills? I've spent all this time looking for good work and now my unemployment has run out and we're on welfare. What else could we do?"

People who will not be expected to work are those who are aged, blind, or disabled, and the single parent whose youngest child is under six. Sarah Sutton, who has suffered from epilepsy since early childhood, has been receiving social security survivor's benefits on her deceased husband's work record for several years. She recently found out that she is entitled to more money than she has been receiving. "How do they expect an older person who has been disabled all her life, who could never work



Presentations were given by (left to right): Marion Stamps of the Tranquillity Welfare Rights Organization, Dovey Coleman of the Uptown Legal Aid Services Board, Cathy Shanley (speaking) of the Uptown People's Community Service Center Welfare Defense Program and Silm Coleman of the Intercommunal Survival Committee.

her whole life, to live on \$2500 a year without food stamps or a medical card? Social Security has been trying to deny me my supplemental benefits because I have someone who lives with me who helps me out. We're both disabled and we both need to live with someone. I will fight for my benefits until I get them because I'm entitled to a decent life. That money is mine."

Another community member asked about all the jobs that Jimmy Carter has promised to create. "I looked for work everywhere. I couldn't find a thing outside the slave market of daily pay. Everyone told me I'm too young or I don't have the job experience or I don't have the right education. I thought Carter said he was going to create millions of jobs for the poor people so we could get off this damned welfare runaround and live with some self-respect. He hasn't created any jobs yet, so why should I expect him to do it with his new welfare reform?"

Jimmy Carter has stated that he will create 1.4 million public service jobs. 1.4 million jobs will affect only 23% of those on welfare and the majority of people will get only low-paying part-time work. He has also stated that we now have an "expanding economy" and that the private sector as well as the government sector will be hiring people to accommodate this "expansion." Actually, the Chicago Mayor's Council on Manpower and Employment has called welfare recipients "unemployable" and has recommended that no federal job programs be directed to them or their communities. So there will

be no public job training or jobs offered to welfare recipients in Chicago. At the same time, private industries think it is too expensive to train welfare recipients, so even if there is an "expanding economy" few jobs for poor people will come from it.



Examples presented by those who came to learn what the President has planned for their lives, clarified for all the vicious nature of each aspect of the welfare reform proposal.



Some of the people who attended the September 11 community forum: "Stop Jimmy Carter's Welfare Proposal" was the theme of the day.

There is no medical plan in the Jimmy Carter welfare proposal. One mother said, "My babies would be dead right now if I didn't have a green card. My youngest boy suffers from asthma and without his medication, he would smother in his bed tonight. The medical card is worth more than the money. Jimmy Carter and his friends just want us to die off so they won't have to hear about us anymore."

There will also be no food stamps. Another mother said, "Welfare gives you enough food stamps to feed your family for 3 weeks out of every month. The last week you can just starve for all they care. I have my way to make the extra money I need, everyone does. Welfare's real business is finding out what your scam is, so they can cut you off and make you start all over again. I can't imagine living without food stamps. How will I ever feed my children without food stamps when I can hardly do it now with the food stamps?"

Finally, many believe that Carter's plan will be used to break union and strikes, especially in the south where the textile workers are fast building a union movement meeting strong resistance from the powerful textile industry. "I made a promise a long time ago that I would never break a strike for no boss, or take away another man's job if he was doing a good job and was trying to better his lot in life.

Now this Carter proposal is saying that if I'm on welfare and they offer me a job, I got to take it, even if that means taking it away from some other man who's trying to build a union. They'd take me and my children off welfare if I didn't take that job. Well, I don't know what I would do. Watch my babies get sick and hungry? What would you do?"

The Governors' Council has already approved the Carter welfare proposal, and it is expected that it will be passed by Congress to become effective in 1981. It appeals to the northern urban areas because there is no mandatory city or state funding. It appeals to the southern areas because the people there have been starving all along since the states won't spend any money on welfare. While the federal funding will mean an increase in their benefits, it is likely that many people on welfare will be used in industry's battle to keep unions out of the south.

Out of the September 11 meeting the People's Coalition To Stop The Carter Welfare Proposal was formed. A petition drive has been initiated and a complaint committee will go to welfare offices on a regular basis to assist people with their welfare problems as well as agitate around the issues in Carter's proposal. Anyone interested in joining the coalition or receiving more information about Carter's welfare plan should call 769-2085. □

FIGHTING THE CHICAGO MASTERPLAN PART II

INTRODUCTION

A man is defined in the way he defines others. Hitler defined the Jews as less than human, and lost his own humanity in doing so. To define men and women, seeking employment and the survival it brings, as **unemployables**, is to say they do not have the right to have the same life as other more fortunate or more favored human beings.

It is not, however, in Nazi Germany that thousands of people in a major city have been tagged the unemployables. It is here in Chicago, in official city reports, where thousands have been classified and maps drawn to designate the communities they live in.

So, perhaps the "masterplanners" have lost their own humanity, and if so, like Hitler, they may become very dangerous to us all.

THE UNEMPLOYABLES

The committee which developed the city's overall economic development plan and the Economic Development Commission have developed a plan in which the city's labor force and neighborhoods can be officially divided into three categories. First, there are the "employed", the stable middle class who live in neighborhoods where most people have jobs. Second, are the "employables", people who have some job training, education and work experience but who just can't find a job due to the high levels of unemployment today. They live primarily in neighborhoods where business and industry has

stayed. Finally, there are the "unemployables". This group includes, according to the Commission, about 35,000 Chicagoans who lack formal education, skills and job experience.

The figure of 35,000 is very low, according to most analysts, because it includes only those who are still actively looking for a job each month and who maintain themselves on the unemployment rolls. Recent employment studies indicate several times that number are unemployed men and women who are not registered and who may or may not be seeking employment. Officially these are called discouraged workers. Naturally they too would be classified as "unemployable".

The committee's 1976 report, titled "Unemployment-Labor Force Policy", admits that almost any eighteen-year-old without a high school diploma would automatically be classified as unemployable. Perhaps even with one, the eighteen-year-old would be viewed as "unemployable" because of the obvious lack of years of job experience and skill certification.

The EDC points out that private industry has increasingly shown an unwillingness to hire and train the unskilled men and women from this group of "unemployables" which is by definition growing as more and more young workers fill its ranks. These so-called unemployables are predominately Black and Latino, but include many poor and especially young Whites.

In the face of this situation, the EDC recommends



There has always been a process of manufacturing and other businesses leaving the City of Chicago since the middle eighteen hundreds.

that the group it has defined as "unemployables", without marketable skills or work experience, should be excluded from any city-wide economic development or job training program. "The Council felt that a strong focus on the least employable would simply not be effective... a focus on the most basically job ready was appropriate..." Job training and placement for the "unemployables" would be too "costly" — \$60 million to train and provide jobs for 10,000 people.

Going further, the council indicates that the movement of job programs away from the hard-core unemployed should be made "gradually over the next three or four years so as to enable the deliverers of programs to adjust for the change."

Finally, the council's 1976 report identified the neighborhoods where the "Unemployables" lived and suggested that little or no economic development money go into these areas. Consequently, the city puts little or no money into those Chicago neighborhoods such as Kenwood-Oakland, Near North, Lawndale, Uptown, Pilsen or West Town. Whatever does go to these areas is usually spent on urban renewal projects. Of the nine sites targeted for economic and business development, only one (Western and Iowa) could be said to be in a poor area.

In effect, the city's Economic Development

Council has called for a virtual freeze-out of all job training and economic development programs for those thousands of Chicagoans and their communities who need these programs the most.

WHY IS THERE A FREEZE-OUT?

If you look at the 1976 Economic Development Commission report alone it may be said to be an attempt by city bureaucrats to get the most out of shrinking federal dollars. The report argues that it is simply a matter of good investment to put job development money into those people who can be gotten on employment rolls most cheaply. They argue that in this way more people can be served and unemployment cut more drastically. And while the council is, it says in the report, "most concerned" about those who will not be served, the "council also feels that this policy will provide a quality work force essential in the stimulation of economic recovery and the retention of a healthy economic basis in the city of Chicago."

Critics of the Economic Development Commission call the discriminatory employment policy a logical extension of the Chicago masterplan as articulated in the Comprehensive Plan of 1966. That 1966 plan calls for programs to assure a supply of skilled employees in non-manufacturing activities such as services and finance. Placed in the context of the plan's determination to "whiten the Loop" — spelled out later in the Chicago 21 Plan — the EDC's employment program is clearly aimed at bringing middle class white collar workers into the downtown business area while denying assistance to the Black, Latino and poor White population in central city neighborhoods which are supposed to be dispersed anyway according to the masterplan.

The Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan, which has conducted educational campaigns, demonstrated and finally brought suit to stop federal funding of the city's Economic Development Commission, explains that the city has been involved for at least fifteen years in an attempt to use federal funds aimed at the problems of unemployment and low-income housing to finance their long-range masterplan. In this way application for federal assistance funds have been made to the government since the Kennedy administration on the basis of the great needs for employment and housing programs in Chicago's many depressed communities. When the monies have been granted, the city has used them to destroy low-income housing under the guise of urban renewal and has used the job money to buy off the community resistance of community organizations or to attract the middle class into the inner city. The pattern represents, according to coalition spokespeople, virtually a public fraud and mis-use of funds, that has gone relatively unchallenged by the federal government.

THE RISE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

In the last 18 years, Chicago has lost about 170,000 manufacturing jobs. From 1969 to 1974, the city lost 21 percent of its manufacturing jobs — more than one in five. Between April 1 and October 1, 1976 alone, Chicago lost another 3,700 manufacturing jobs. A. Robert Abboud, Chairman of the First National Bank of Chicago and a member of the Economic Development Commission, commented to a reporter last year that "We had a very vigorous real estate boom going on in the Chicago area with a lot of construction . . . You'd have been out of your mind if you had been out there selling industry."

The facts are that there has always been a process of manufacturing and other businesses leaving the city of Chicago since the middle eighteen hundreds. Until the 1960's, however, the city power structure, especially the banks, worked to bring new kinds of business and manufacturing in to replace that which was leaving. In the 1960's, faced with a majority Black and Latino population that threatened political control, the banks and developers opted for a new masterplan. The concept was to develop the downtown business area as a business, commercial and financial district, which required white collar workers from the suburbs, and let the surrounding communities desperately follow the manufacturing industries out of the city. As a result, there has been no concern in the last fifteen years to meet the question of hard-core unemployment in the inner city. Federal funds designated for that use have been put to work reorganizing the city for its new, white middle class look.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Economic Development Commission, chaired by Thomas Ayers who is head of Commonwealth Edison Co., was designed in the early seventies to become the first local agency in the nation to combine and coordinate economic development and employment programs. It is this commission that supervised the development of the Overall Economic Development Plan for Chicago and the policy on unemployment programs that coined the term "the unemployables". It is also this commission which the community coalition in Chicago has stopped from receiving federal funds aimed at economic development and unemployment programs to this date.

The commission represents the five largest banks in the city, two of the largest developers, the major department store-retail chains, other major downtown business interests and the major city planners like Julian Levy, who have been the architects of the Chicago masterplan. There is one Black man on the commission about whom little is known except that he heads a large insurance company. The rest are



This group of "unemployables" is by definition growing as more and more young workers fill its ranks.

White males with significant business interests. Many sit on the boards of directors of each others companies, comprising a tight business and financial elite in the city.

The banks and businesses represented on the Economic Development Commission are, in fact, the same interests who have benefited by the boom in the downtown area while the jobs left the rest of the city. They now seek to determine and decide without consultation with the majority of Chicago citizens how unemployment programs should be delivered and developed for the city.

The exact role of the commission has been shrouded in mystery. Only through a suit in federal court has their direct responsibility for the Overall Economic Development Plan been verified. They are the men who stayed behind the scenes during the Daley administration who now, for the first time, are stepping out front to take direct control of the reins of government from less efficient political hacks.

For years the people of this country have professed to be free of caste systems such as in India where a group of people are called "untouchables" and are shunned by the rest of society. Now it appears that a small but powerful elite, with economic interests reaching throughout the world, have started a new caste system ostracizing certain people in the inner cities as "unemployables". In part III of this series, "Fighting the Chicago Masterplan" KEEP STRONG will focus in on the effects of the masterplan on housing and the interests of the five large banks that lead the Economic Development Commission. □

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Harry F. Chaddick, Co-Chairman**

**William G. Caples, Executive Director
Economic Development Commission**

**Donald A. Petkus, Secretary
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Fifth District Candidates Challenged To Investigate Area's Destruction

THE SAN FRANCISCO MASTERPLAN: “WALL STREET WEST”

In the following KEEP STRONG Interview Marc Zalkin, of the Intercommunal Survival Committee in the San Francisco-Bay Area, comments on conditions in the 5th District in San Francisco. The district, which has been a target for destruction by the city, has 17 candidates running for supervisor in the early November city-wide district elections.

KEEP STRONG: How would you describe San Francisco?

ZALKIN: San Francisco is a city on wheels. Wheels on the top. Wheels on the bottom. Wheels in the middle. They turn in rhythm driving the city toward the Bank of America's vision of the 1980's and 90's.

KEEP STRONG: What do you mean by wheels?

ZALKIN: The Chamber of Commerce is a wheel. The President of the Chamber of Commerce just gave his annual report on the State of the City. He is very pleased. Just read the first paragraph:

“...It is not a well publicized fact that each of the last 10 years there has been an average of over one million square feet of office space, constructed in San Francisco. Since 1968 the city has added 13 million square feet of office space, and at the beginning of 1977 there were less than one million feet vacant—giving San Francisco an occupancy rate which is probably higher than any other major city in America. Embarcadero III, which is now being completed, is leasing at a faster rate than either Embarcadero I or Embarcadero II, a clear

indication, I believe, that we continue to be a Headquarters city.”

The Mayor's Office of Community Development is another wheel. It has just prepared its fourth year application for \$26 million from the federal government. The city is asking for the money in the name of oppressed communities. Officials say they need 26 million because Black, Latino and Asian communities are underserved, underhoused, unemployed, and desperate and no one is taking care of 8000 senior citizens living in rat infested flop houses in the Tenderloin. The application says they will use the money to “conserve existing housing, develop new housing, improve neighborhood quality, increase economic development,” but they are really using the money to attract and subsidize private investors in neighborhoods around the city.

The Hearst family (they own the two daily newspapers in San Francisco) is a wheel. They have just completed another successful slander campaign. This time it was against the Chinese community. They ran front page headlines for a week and a half about a shooting. They started calling it mass murder and gang warfare. Why don't they have headlines about the need for more housing and decent health care in Chinatown?

The real issue here is a larger attack on the Chinese community. Activists in Chinatown explain that the community blocks the financial district off from the rest of the city. In other words, these are angry people sitting next to the “Headquarters”. This year and each year since 1975 the city has requested and received \$500,000 specifically for the “Acquisition of

While the city asks for millions of dollars for Black and poor neighborhoods from Chinatown to Hunters Point (area in black on map), they will actually use the money to attract investors around the city.



Housing Sites" in Chinatown. When Moscone and his gang had to face the eviction at the International Hotel, they had \$1.5 million in their pockets, but they threw their hands in the air and cried, "Sorry, but we've done all we can. Now you've got to go." The racist newspaper headlines created a loud call for more police in Chinatown. The police will run around the neighborhood acting ignorant and arresting young people. Police Chief Gain wants to import cops from Hong Kong while Moscone is talking about more community services needed in Chinatown, the city is spending under \$800,000 for

recreation facilities in Chinatown and putting \$5 million away for "programming, management and contingencies".

KEEP STRONG: What is the Bank of America vision that you referred to before?

ZALKIN: The bank's vision is the "Headquarters" or "Wall Street West" idea downtown to surround the financial business district by a string of white upper income neighborhoods. Those poor and minority people who manage to stay in the city will



Haight St.: The banks that wouldn't lend a dime to the little guy are financing the take-over."

find places to live only in small scattered areas. The oppressed corridor running from Chinatown to Bayview-Hunters Point will have to be torn apart. This has been going on for a long time. Just look at what they have done in Hunters Point. In the last three years, they spent almost \$17.6 million. They have nothing to show for it except a lot of abandoned buildings and empty lots. They knocked out several hundred units of housing in a very short time. This year the city is asking for \$6.25 million for Hunters Point. They're spending the money on "Public improvements for new housing sites, completion of street system, property management, relocation payments, property disposition, demolition, project area committees, interest on loans and administration." A lot of nothing. They have a deal with Yerby. They will run the Black people out of Hunters Point and improve the streets and he will build his \$50 million executive park.

KEEP STRONG: You mean the city is promoting speculation?

ZALKIN: No. It is really not speculation at all. I sold a magazine to a real estate broker about a week ago. I will tell you exactly what he said to me. "There is no land speculation in San Francisco. Speculation is gambling. There is no risk here. The city puts its money out front to guarantee your investment. The real estate business here is like playing poker with a three year old. There's no way to lose." The city has

requested \$4 million this year for their Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RAP). They will give as much as \$4,000 to a real estate investor on a low interest thirty year loan—just to improve the appearance. That is what is forcing the rents so high. The RAP program which falls under the category of "conserving" is being used to stop low income families from entering neighborhoods or drive them out leaving the buildings intact. That is why they have marked the Tenderloin as the next RAP project area. As a matter of fact, I think it is fair to say that all of the federal money, \$112 million over the last 4 years in CDA funds alone is being used to segregate the city.

KEEP STRONG: Are these the issues that are prominent in the upcoming district elections?

ZALKIN: Not thus far. The Candidates mouth a lot of rhetoric about balancing districts and city-wide needs but they really don't address the whole picture of what is happening. Take the fifth district, the one I'm in. It is a string of neighborhoods that had, until recently, provided low cost housing to families that were forced to leave Hunters Point, the Western Addition, the Fillmore area, etc. Now it is becoming lily white and middle to upper middle class for the most part. You are not going to find a decent three bedroom apartment for less than \$450 a month.

This is not just a racial thing either. Senior citizens on fixed incomes are being driven or kept out. Young families where the husband is marginally and transitionally employed won't find housing they can afford here either. Combined with the Black, Latin and Asian people, that is 75% of the people in this city getting the door shut in their faces. The issues in the fifth district are obvious. The banks that wouldn't lend a dime to the old time merchants on Haight St. are financing the take-over, forcing out the little guy and turning the place into cutie pie row. This will inflate rents all around there. Public investigations should be started now.

Ralph K. Davis Hospital, between Noe St. and Castro St. on Duboce, is pushing for a multimillion dollar expansion—office building, heliport and parking lot. The people behind it are investors. They are not concerned about anybody's health. As far as they are concerned, the only difference between a race track and a hospital is that you can't get medicaid for horses. Those candidates who promised to "get things done" should go to work "yesterday" preventing that expansion.

Finally, there is a group in Noe Valley that is fighting for the city to build 20-30 units of subsidized housing for senior citizens and disabled people at 27th and Douglas. Candidates who want to keep the doors to this area open should be way out front fighting for this housing. □



The owners of Davis Hospital will spend millions for expansion that does not include services to the community.

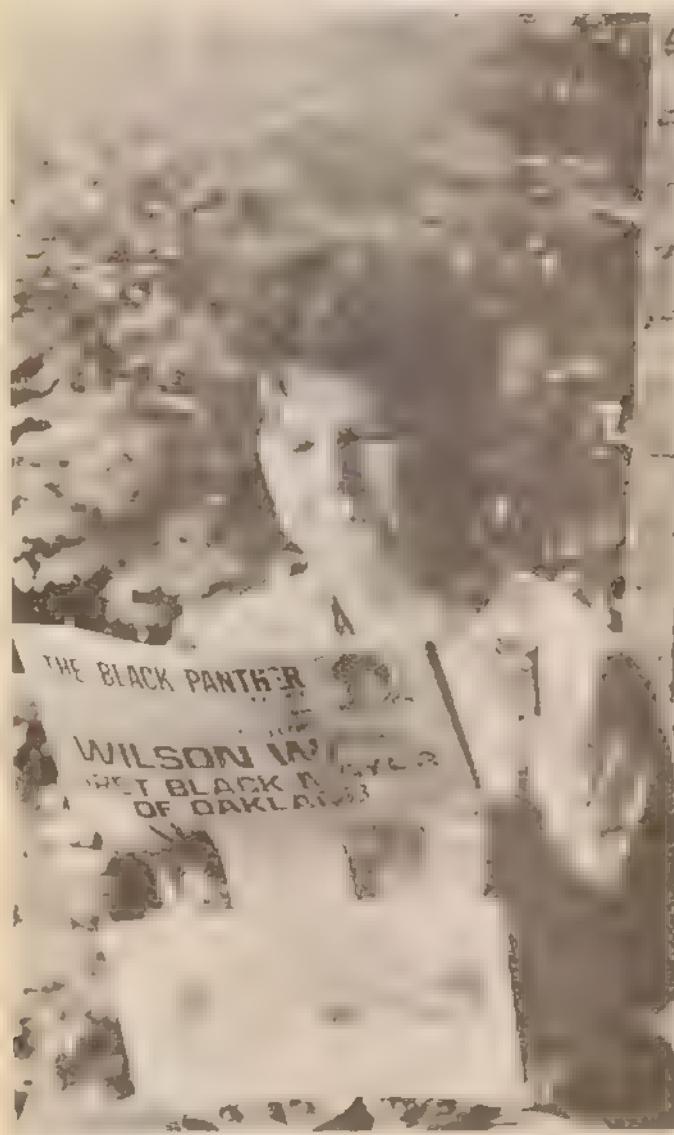
THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

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The Intercommunal Survival Committee, responsible for **KEEP STRONG**, has been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to White people, for over 7 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive Whites is testimony to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as Whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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Huey P. Newton States BPP Position On Controversial Affirmative Action Case

THE BAKKE CASE

Recently Huey P. Newton, President and Founder of the Black Panther Party sent the following letter to Mr. William Coblenz, chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of California regarding the University's special admissions program at the Davis Medical School.

"Dear Mr. Coblenz:

"I write to urge immediate consideration by the University of California towards administering the special admissions program at the medical school of the Davis campus in a manner consistent with the program's stated purposes and thereby, hopefully, avoiding an opinion in the Bakke case now pending before the Supreme Court.

"I make this request after thoroughly reviewing the opinion of the California Supreme Court and the brief filed with the United States Supreme Court as well as after talking with many people concerned about the implications of a ruling either way in the Bakke case. It is my conclusion for the reasons I will explain that the issue posed by the Bakke case — i.e. the constitutionality of preferential racial quotas — is unnecessary and bitterly divisive to the University and the country at this time.

"The two-fold purpose of the special admissions program at the Davis Medical School is, according to the University, (1) to equalize the opportunity for 'educationally or economically disadvantaged' students to obtain a medical education, and (2) to increase the number of doctors who will practice in medically underserved areas. The first goal can be achieved without regard to race, even though a disproportionate number of 'educationally or

economically disadvantaged' applicants for medical school are likely to be non-white, racial minorities. But it is beyond dispute that poor Whites, whether they be migrant farmers, urban welfare beneficiaries, or Appalachian residents, fit within the category of 'educationally or economically disadvantaged.' In fact, of the total number of students who applied for the special admissions program at Davis, one in five was White; although unfortunately since 1969, none but racial minorities were admitted. Indeed, the University did not even 'challenge the trial court finding that applicants who are not members of a minority are barred from participation in the special admissions program.' (*Bakke v. Regents of the University of California*, 18 C. 3d 34, 44 [1976]).

"Thus, the practical application of the special admissions program fails to meet its own theoretical standard of assisting 'educationally or economically disadvantaged' students; instead it is obviously only focused on those 'disadvantaged' who also happen to be minority. I believe this is a prime example of a program that — at least in terms of the lofty stated purpose of assisting the 'disadvantaged' — is Constitutional on its face, but not as applied.

"Accordingly I suggest that if the University has not already done so, it immediately administer the special admissions program consistent with its first stated goal and without regard to race, inform the court of this fact and urge it to dismiss the case as mute. This will avoid a ruling that is not only factually unnecessary, but puts in political and financial jeopardy numerous programs intended to benefit economically and educationally disadvantaged persons.

"With respect to the second stated goal of the special admissions program — i.e. increasing the



— Huey P. Newton —

number of doctors who will practice in medically underserved areas — the University can and ought to go further than it has to achieve the same. Only if we assume that 'educationally or economically disadvantaged' persons will practice in underserved areas upon graduation will this goal be achieved. They might; and then again they might not desire to return to the poverty they can leave behind them after acquiring a medical education. To assure that the present imbalance of physicians throughout California is redressed, I propose that additional points or credits be given to applicants for medical school who will agree to practice in medically underserved areas for a specific period of time upon graduation. This principle is already well-established and accepted by the public in similar situations. In military academies and even ROTC (at least the Navy) conditioned the public subsidy of a college education upon later military service. Medical education is the most heavily subsidized of all educations, and it does not seem too oppressive to condition its receipt upon those who opt for extra credit towards admission upon their later service for pay in an underserved area. I recognize, of course, that this may raise yet

another Constitutional issue — the right of a public university to attach such a condition to admission. But I suggest this is politically a far healthier issue to litigate and publicly debate, and at least ought to be put to the test before we reach the divisive one of racial quotas.

"The entire debate now raging over **Bakke** and the Constitutionality of so-called benign racial classifications reminds me of a story about my namesake, Huey P. Long. This story was told to me many times by my father, who was from Louisiana, but also recounted by A. J. Liebling in *The Earl of Louisiana*. During one of his campaigns for re-election as governor, Huey was approached by a group of Blacks who were concerned about the massive, depression unemployment suffered by the Black population of the state. They asked him to do something to relieve their plight. He told them he would, but warned them they may not like the way he went about it. Thereupon, Huey began campaign stumping around the state, complaining to audiences that he had been shocked to see Black orderlies handling White women patients in some of the state's hospitals. He called for separate hospitals for Blacks and, after being elected, embarked upon an ambitious and popularly supported construction program for Black hospitals, which produced a substantial number of jobs for Blacks. Judging by the results, Huey's program was partly benign, an example of color consciousness; but judging by the rhetoric employed — or the means used — it was racist. Only history can judge whether, on balance, this effort of Huey P. Long's to relieve Black unemployment was more positive than negative.

"History, and not the court, ought to also judge the value of the special admissions program at the Davis Medical School, especially since its purpose is not dependent upon a racial classification.

"I have rarely been accused of shirking debate, especially since I believe in the necessity and the inevitability of contradiction. (See, e.g., E. H. Erickson and H. P. Newton, *In Search of Common Ground* (1973). But the **Bakke** case does not represent a true or necessary contradiction; it is a contrived one that can and should be avoided in the public interest.

"I am keenly aware of your personal commitment to public education and equal justice; therefore, I am hopeful that you will give these thoughts your immediate attention, share them with the appropriate authorities and inform the court of the suggested change in the administration of the special admissions program at Davis which renders **Bakke** mute.

"Respectfully,
"Huey P. Newton"

Supporters Hold 4 Day Vigil At U.N. Headquarters In N.Y.C.

NATIVE AMERICAN DELEGATION GOES TO GENEVA

In late September the U.N. Human Rights Division sponsored a major conference at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on the discrimination against the indigenous peoples of the Americas. The International Treaty Organization, which was recently granted NGO (non-governmental organization) status by the U.N., prepared and planned the substance of the conference.

The International Treaty Council was founded in June, 1974 by 4,000 delegates from 97 nations (tribes) at the First International Treaty Conference held on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Thirty-five representatives from the Americas—including South America, Central America, the United States and Canada—went to Geneva for the four day conference.

While their representatives were in Geneva discussing the issues including legal affairs, laws and treaties, economic affairs and cultural affairs, supporters gathered at the U.N. Headquarters in New York City for a corresponding vigil. In discussions with several of these supporters including Wilbert Fish and Richard Orton (who had traveled from the midwestern United States to attend the vigil) the following conversation emerged.

"We are thinking about the children of our generation. We want a land base. We want the reservations to remain as they are. What is on the reservation is natural resources such as gas and coal. Our reservations are now being intruded by the United States government. They come to drill and take these natural resources from us. If they have to use force, it will be done by force.

"There are also anti-Indian movements. These are mainly white ranchers and others who have been involved with the Indian people in the political

struggle but who are against the Indian people's struggle because they need land too, for water or grazing or whatever. They are what we call anti-Indian and they are fighting against the Indian people.

"The young people today are realizing this and so the young people are forced to leave the reservation to come to the city where they will be effective in



Wilbert Fish (top) and Richard Orton: We are asking that our land remain as an Indian nation.

Federal Marshalls outside Wounded Knee in 1973. Today, "They are building up an army out there to attack the people."



their demonstrations. We are here because we are afraid for our land. We do not want our land to be exploited like they have done before. Every time the government has come to the Indian people asking the Indian people for land for their children to survive we have given them all the land they want. No more are we going to give the government, the non-Indian people our land because we need the land we have now for our children to grow and our children to prosper and our children to live. This was spoken in the Black Foot treaties.

"What we are asking is that our land remain as an Indian nation. We don't want them drilling. We don't want them digging up. We don't want them strip mining. Different corporations are coming in and trying to take the coal, the gas, uranium, gold and silver that is on most of our lands. Once they come in and start drilling or finding gold and silver on the lands there's gonna be many structures coming up like in the cities now. The cities are polluted, the air is polluted, and many other things that our people do not care for because they are, as we say, harmonious with this earth.

"We have never dug into this earth because we look at this earth as a woman who has given us all sorts of life. She has fed us. She has given us water when we needed water. She has made us live and that's the way we look at this earth, as a woman. I would not turn around and take a knife and stick it in my mother's heart just to get the value that is inside.

"Since the occupation of Wounded Knee in '73 our people have told the world that they don't want the government and they want the land back. The government has come in with the Federal Marshalls and agents and have had field days out there with their war toys and their armed personnel carriers and their automatic weapons and their flank vests and helicopters and all the things that they couldn't use any more in the war they lost. They would go into a bar and go up to somebody, give him a couple hundred dollars and have him beat up somebody or maybe even more drastic than that they get people to kill other people. Since the occupation they have had over 250 deaths out there. Some of them were unexplained, some of them they wrote off as natural causes. But the death rate went up considerably within the Pine Ridge area. People that live all their lives in that type of environment who have relied on wood to keep them warm in the winter were mysteriously dying of "exposure" in the winter. There was one incident where a young woman was killed and they tried to cover it up. They buried her and said she died of exposure. Her family had her body taken out of the ground and re-examined. They found a bullet in the back of her head. This is the type of things that go on out there today. A lot of people don't understand this because the media has been so sheltered and cut off. The information doesn't get out.

"Now, in Montana, they are having training sessions for game wardens. These game wardens are being trained for rapid fire 357 magnum pistols at a

silhouette target in the dark. They have got to empty their guns once, reload and empty it again in 12 seconds to pass a test. They are learning how to use shot guns and all types of riot equipment. They have a helicopter now that they use for game. If you are camped in the woods they buzz your camp and they send in the camp warden to see what you are doing there; to see if you are violating any laws or anything. It is just harassment to drive the people out of the woods. They are spending money that nobody can account for, they are buying automatic weapons and they are waiting. They are building up an army out there to attack the people. We can see it but they are trying to cover it up. The game warden program is not there to benefit the people.

idea of what is going on until it is over with and they realize that they are sterilized and can never have any more children. It is worse than people getting sterilized through working around chemical plants or through radiation. These doctors are actually practicing things that Hitler did. This is in this country and against our people.

"That's why we are in Geneva. That's why our people are struggling. That's why people are dying. It's because we want a voice out there. People died in Pine Ridge, in Rosebud, they died in Washington and they died in Great Falls. They died because they want to help their people. They will continue to die for as long as it takes. That is why these young people



Some of the supporters who gathered at the U.N. Headquarters in New York. "These young people are putting their lives on the line so there will be some future."

"Documentation of what we have been talking about has been taken to the Geneva conference. There will be transcripts available soon. Our people want to govern ourselves. It is written in the contract (treaties) that we deserve the right to govern ourselves whenever we want to but the government is denying us this because they want what we have.

"They are already sterilizing our women so that they cannot have children. They say well, this is good practice you know, we will fix it so that you won't have to worry about feeding your children any more. Through public health service they are bringing doctors to sterilize women and some of them have no

are here today because they are putting their lives on the line so there will be some future. So we are in Geneva now.

"I came from the Black Hills of South Dakota and I came to New York to bring my support to the native Americans that are in Geneva right now. The United States government has violated 371 treaties. This is why we needed the conference in Geneva. But also, the future of our children and our grandchildren depends on that conference. It is for their good so that when they grow old their children will also have a place and the land will still be here and they will be able to drink pure water and breathe pure air." □

Zenith Lays Off 5600 Workers

(Chicago, Ill.) The Zenith Radio Corp. announced plans late in September to lay off more than 5600 employees in the United States, including 2,100 in the Chicago area alone. Claiming that Zenith "has tried longer and has tried harder than others to protect the jobs of its U.S. employees," John J. Nevin, the company's chairman and president blamed low profits and stiff competition as the reason for the layoffs. He did not mention that in the last five years Zenith's profits were \$185 million.

The firm, whose advertising campaigns since 1971 have emphasized the ability of American workers, will shift "substantial manufacturing operations" to Mexico and Taiwan, where the cost of labor is cheaper.

John Nevin is also the chairman of the Chicago Alliance of Businessmen. The kickoff of a campaign to hire the "hard-core unemployed" by the business association coincided with Zenith's layoff announcement. □

Major Setback For Organized Labor

(Washington, D.C.) The U.S. House of Representatives dealt a stunning triple setback to organized labor last month:

(1) Establishing a mild three-year raise in the federal minimum wage from the current \$2.30 an hour rate to \$2.65 an hour by January 1, 1978, \$2.85 by 1979 and \$3.05 by 1980—substantially less than the \$3.00 an hour figure for 1978 originally sought by the AFL-CIO;

(2) Turning back a Carter administration-backed proposal to permanently "index" (fix) the minimum wage at 53% of the average wage of manufacturing workers; and

(3) Sharply rejecting a plan to eliminate the special "tip credit," which allows employers of workers who earn tips—which includes hundreds of thousands of Black women in the food service industry—to pay

only 50% of the minimum wage, that is \$1.15 an hour.

So strong was the anti-labor sentiment that, in a dramatic roll call vote, the House only defeated by one vote a proposed "subminimum wage" plan for youth which would have permitted employers to pay workers 18 years old or younger 85% of the minimum wage (\$1.95) for six months.

The voting was seen as a major victory for the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and other business interests who lobbied strongly against the pro-labor forces.

As if to add insult to injury, the increases were included in the same amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act which blocked the much-sought "indexing"—and were lower than the minimum wage in the original bill, which called for a raise to \$2.89 in 1979 and \$3.15 by 1980.

Under another House amendment, 3.8 million workers were excluded from federal minimum wage protection by raising the exemption for companies making \$250,000 in sales a year to \$500,000.

The House also voted to: exempt fulltime babysitters from the minimum wage; retain the exemption from the minimum wage and overtime payments for amusement park workers and concessioners in national parks and forests; waive age restrictions to permit children under age 12 to pick strawberries between June and September 15.

Supporters of the subminimum wage for youth argued that the lower wage rate would encourage employers to hire the mass of unemployed young persons crowding the job market.

Their arguments were countered by Parren Mitchell, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, who called the subminimum wage a "ghastly mistake."

The Fair Labor Standards Act excludes millions of workers from federal minimum wage protection.



Mitchell pointed out that such a difference in pay scales would result in the young taking jobs from adults. Because poor Blacks would undoubtedly be slotted into many of the lower-paying jobs, he said, the subminimum wage would widen the existing chasm between Black and White incomes.

"All you are going to be doing is playing off the younger group against the older and that group will still be unemployed," Mitchell said. "That doesn't make sense." "Suppose someone offered a race differential...or a sex differential?" asked Bay Area Representative Ron Dellums. "What's the difference."

In spite of these strong arguments and others, the subminimum wage proposal only lost by a 210 to 211 vote, with House Speaker Thomas O'Neill of Massachusetts casting the deciding vote to break the tie. The vote rejecting "indexing" the minimum wage was 223 to 193, while the vote to keep "tip credit" was 264 to 161.

Contrary to popular belief, merely 58% of this country's 90 million work force (52.2 million) are covered by federal wage protection. The largest sector of the work force left uncovered is between four to five million farmworkers, toiling on the average for less than \$2.00 an hour. □

Community's Right To Sue Undermined

(San Francisco, Calif.) Amidst a battery of city supported private developments in San Francisco, which has been devastating to neighborhoods from Chinatown to Hunter's Point, the California state legislature recently passed State Senate Bill 571 which undermines the ability of poor communities to defend themselves. Historically, community groups have found a dead end when they appealed to city planning commissions and zoning boards to block demolition and construction which does not meet the needs of their neighborhoods. Finding no sympathy from the business oriented city officials, groups have turned to the courts and used it as an effective arena to make their voices heard and often times prevent the undesirable construction or demolition.

The passage of SB 571 allows judges to require that groups filing lawsuits against developers post a bond equaling the developers damages, attorneys fees and security costs. Critics of the bill including tenants unions and community organizations charge that the new law is intended to discourage oppressed people from using the courts to defend their homes and neighborhoods.



State Senator John Foran, who has called poor people's desire for decent housing and a stable environment "frivolous."

The bill was authored by San Francisco State Senator John Foran. In spite of his "liberal" image, Senator Foran received heavy financing from real estate, mortgage banking and insurance interests in his 1976 campaign. Reading like a "Who's Who" of community plunder, the list includes, Occidental Life Insurance, Insurance Men's Political Action Committee, Bank of America, California Housing Political Action Committee (real estate lobby,) California Real Estate Political Action Committee, California Independent Mortgage Bankers Association, CAMPAC (political action committee of the mortgage banking industry,) Fund for Insurance Education, Bankers Responsible Government Committee, Building Industry Century Committee, and the Chartered Bank of London among others.

Senator Foran has explained the purpose of the law as "halting frivolous law suits filed by groups as a means to halt construction projects." But community leaders point to the International Hotel, the expansion of Davis Hospital, Bernie Kelly's proposed BART station in Glen Park, the continuing Nihonmachi evictions in Japantown, or the painful destruction of the Mission to say that poor people's desire for stable neighborhoods and low rent housing is not 'frivolous.'

Other activists have said that the similarity between the senator's financiers and the obvious beneficiaries of the new law indicate that "the law as well as the senate seat was bought and paid for by those who could meet the price."

Some supporters of the new law have argued that it is fair because it leaves the bond posting requirement

at the discretion of the hearing judge. But attorneys and community organizations are calling the law too vague, saying that its broadness prevents communities from taking action at any point while a development is underway. The actual wording of the final paragraph of the bill supports this belief.

"As used in this section, a construction project includes, but is not restricted to, the construction, surveying, design, specifications, alteration, repair, improvement, removal of or demolition of any building, highway, road, parking facility, bridge, railroad, airport, pier, or dock excavation or other structure, development or real improvement to real or personal property."

The law is so new that it has yet to be tested. However, the fact that it effectively discriminates against people who are poor, excluding them from "due process" of the law, has many people anticipating a court challenge as to its constitutionality. □

Carter Forces Bert Lance To "Resign" Over Banking Scandal

(Washington, D.C.) Jimmy Carter, seeking to patch up his badly tarnished political image as a result of mounting disclosures on the illegal banking practices of U.S. Budget Director Bert Lance, last week forced his fellow Georgian to resign.

Announcing Lance's "resignation" at a September 21 White House press conference, Carter, tears in his eyes, said he accepted his friend's decision with "regret and sorrow" but felt that it was the right decision "because it would be difficult for him to devote full time to his responsibilities in the future."

While Carter said at the nationally televised news conference that he believed Lance had "exonerated himself completely" of the charges against him, the former Georgia banker still faces investigations by five federal government agencies.

White House observers noted that while the President alleged that the decision to "resign" had been solely that of Lance, the ex-director of the Office of Management and Budget had become too much of a political liability for Carter to retain him.

A letter of resignation written by Lance and read by Carter at the beginning of the press conference



Bert Lance, the former Georgia banker, still faces investigations by five federal agencies.

said that "my conscience is clear" and that Lance remained "convinced that I can continue to be an effective director of the Office of Management and Budget."

The President denied that he had been "remiss" in examining Lance's qualifications or possible disqualifications because of their close friendship or that he had been misled about Lance's banking problems. "There was no attempt to conceal anything from me or my staff," Carter insisted.

Even up to September 20 new disclosures in the Lance scandal unfolded. On that day, an attorney in the office of the comptroller of the currency accused Lance of lying in order to secure his influential White House post.

In a sworn statement released by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Michael Patriarca said that during a February, 1977, dinner conversation, Donald Tarleton, the Southern regional administrator for the U.S. comptroller, told him that Lance had asked that a disciplinary action against the Calhoun First National Bank, of which Lance was president be lifted.

Patriarca said that Tarleton quoted Lance as saying: "Jimmy (Carter) wants me to be the head of the OMB and I want to go in with a clear record so, I just wondered if you could see your way clear to lift the agreement on Calhoun."

Patriarca's statement directly contradicted those made by Lance and Tarleton. □

Reprinted from "The Black Panther"

INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

Huey P. Newton Reports On His Experience In Cuba

Shortly after his return from forced exile in Cuba, Black Panther Party President and Founder Huey P. Newton appeared on a nationally syndicated TV talk show. During the hour of discussion, he talked about many things, among them a brief glimpse into his stay in Cuba. This month in the Intercommunal Section of KEEP STRONG sections of that interview appear.

HUEY P. NEWTON: "When I arrived in Cuba I was given a grand tour by the revolutionary government. I visited each province for two weeks to four months. I saw the many new clinics, hospitals, schools and apartment complexes in the rural as well as the city areas. It was a fascinating experience. I was most impressed by the government's dedication to the people in the form of full employment. The Cuban males are fully employed. The females are 37% employed, because they haven't constructed enough day care centers. I was also impressed by the lack of racism.

"I requested to work in the cane fields but the

Cubans notified me that North Americans were not permitted to work in the cane fields because they're counterproductive. They can not adapt to the heat. But I wanted to have the Cuban experience and Cuba is basically an agricultural country so they suggested to me that if I wanted that type of work, perhaps I would work in a factory. So after some discussion I ended up taking a job in a cement factory assisting a mechanic in repairing cement mixer trucks. I worked there in Las Villas, Santa Clara for four months. The Cubans also asked me if I would teach at the University of Havana. I told them first I would like some manual labor to really get the Cuban experience.

"So after the four months I moved back to Havana and taught school, at the University of Havana. To Cubans who studied English for five to six years, I taught the history of social movements in the U.S. My time was spent writing the history of the Black Panther Party, teaching school and also enjoying the fine weather of Cuba, the many beaches, and so forth."

Q: "Would you ever have considered taking a job repairing cement mixers in this country to get the cement mixer experience?"

HPN: "I worked for a construction company in 1960 driving a large truck. I also ran a jack hammer. The work was very difficult. The Cuban experience was much different because the job was not only a job. It ended up being a center of activity, of social communication. On the weekends, the personnel carriers that took us to work would pick up people and their families. We would make sandwiches and beverages and then we would go to the beaches and enjoy ourselves. Sometimes we would invite bands



Cuban workers. "I was most impressed by the government's dedication to the people in the form of full employment."

and musicians to our job center on the weekend and whole families would enjoy themselves together. The job was like an extended family.

Q: "As opposed to your work as a construction worker in this country or a jack hammer operator, how was it different?"

HPN: "It was different because when I worked in this country it was only work; there was very little communication or socializing after work.

"I had the experience of living in one of the apartment houses and the plumbing broke down. I asked my wife Gwen, 'Well who do we call? Where is the central agency or superintendent?' We asked other people in the apartment house and they didn't know what we were talking about. We explained to them the problem and they said, 'Oh, when you go to work tomorrow report it to your fellow workers on the job.' I did and the workers said, 'After the job Rafael and one other who is a plumber will go out with you and repair it' because the work center is responsible for each apartment. They came out and repaired the toilet, I asked if I could pay and they said, 'No, when something breaks down in our home, we would like it if you would help us.' So I received a collective experience."

Q: "Now, is the reason that doesn't happen in this country that way because of our governmental system or because of we ourselves, that we as people have tried to insulate ourselves from our fellows?"

HPN: "Well, I think that we have to consider the complex whole. In other words, when you create a certain structure or certain environment, people act according to the peculiarities of that environment. You create an environment of competition, if you create an environment where people are taught to not work together but work to get ahead of one another, people would tend to be alienated, suspicious and unfriendly. If you create an environment where people have to depend on each other, an environment where competition is not promoted but cooperation is promoted you will get people behaving in a different way. That's basic sociology that any reputable social scientist would agree with."

Q: "At the cement mixer company, was there a manager or plant supervisor?"

HPN: "Yes, we called him the jefi or chief, but he would also go on these outings. The unions are very strong of course, and the unions really run the job, he does not run the job. He does administrative work and if any changes come about on the job, it has to be in agreement with the workers there."

Q: "And does he earn more money than people who are not jefi?"

HPN: "In Cuba you don't have egalitarianism. You have a socialist state but there are differences in pay scales. The lowest pay scale is 100, 120 pesos a month. The highest pay is 400 pesos a month. Fidel earns 400 pesos a month. The average pay is approximately 250 pesos. I earned about 240 pesos. My wife taught English in a hospital. She earned 250 pesos. So while there is a difference in pay scale, the difference is not so great until everyone can enjoy a relatively secure life."

Q: "Will those people who are earning 150 pesos a month ever want to earn 250 pesos a month?"

HPN: "Yes, and what happens is each job provides a school that the worker can go to two hours three days a week to promote himself in his job area so that he can earn the 250 pesos."

Q: "But there is no competition between people to get better jobs and more pesos?"

HPN: "It's not like it is here but I won't say there's no competition. Here you have what I call capitalist competition; there you have socialist competition. There is a certain amount of competition but the framework of the competition is more friendly. In other words, everyone is going to be able to get his basic food. For a family of 4, you spend about 27 pesos a month to get all the food that you can get on your ration book. Because everyone is on ration there is no competition to acquire the food."

Q: "What does that mean, on ration? So much meat, so much poultry?"

HPN: "Yes. Cuba is a poor country, it's not a rich country such as we have here in the U.S. Everything had to go on ration to make sure that what they do have was equally distributed. For the Cubans it's an advancement because before the revolution, before 1959, the average pay was 300 pesos a year, and between that time (seasonal jobs) there was no employment, people starved. Many people (when they were working) were paid off in sugar, so while the ration system might be difficult for a North American to experience, it's viewed as an advancement in Cuba. Cuba is no model for the U.S."

"The U.S. is an advanced, technological, wealthy country, with many natural resources and the changes that are needed here will have to come about according to our particular history and our particular culture. There are essential changes that are needed here, but I want to make it clear that I don't propose that the United States adapt the Cuban system. I say that some of the basic things of socialism, such as full employment, is a necessary thing in the U.S. and I think that it's a duty of the government, if the government is interested in the people, to arrange the structure so that people can be employed." □



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A PROGRAM FOR SURVIVAL

"All these programs satisfy the deep needs of the community but they are not solutions to our problems. That is why we call them survival programs, meaning survival pending revolution."—Huey P. Newton

Each One Teach One Program

Founded on the concept that it is everyone's responsibility to teach our children the skills necessary to survive, this program concretely is designed to raise the reading skills of the neighborhood youth.

Legal Education & Defense Program

Offers counseling, advice and assistance in finding an attorney when necessary in any kind of legal, welfare or social security dispute.



Monthly Country Music Sunday at the Uptown People's Community Service Center

Intercommunal News Service

Provides news and information about the world and poor and oppressed communities through the distribution of *Keep Strong* magazine and *The Black Panther*.

Tenants Survival Union

Provides assistance and community support in landlord-tenant disputes. Building management and maintenance skills which exist in the community are put to use in order to improve neglected buildings.

Black Lung Association

Provides assistance to ex-coal miners and their widows in their struggle to get the benefits they are entitled to by law.

Mutual aid programs also exist to deal with basic food, transportation and medical needs to the more severely afflicted black lung victims.

Food Cooperatives

Provides good quality foods at lower than supermarket prices through community participation and community co-operative buying.

THE COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
FOR
HUEY P. NEWTON
AND THE
BLACK PANTHER PARTY



ERICKA HUGGINS, ELAINE BROWN, HUEY P. NEWTON
and the children of the Oakland Community School proudly
receive a commendation from the California legislature.

Huey P. Newton, the Founder of the Black Panther Party, has returned voluntarily from exile to confront in open court the false charges and the murderous secret police attacks that forced him to leave the United States in 1974.

I want to help get Justice for Huey! Enclosed is my contribution toward Huey's bail and defense: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 other \$_____
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